Dear Forensics Friends,

You are cordially invited to the Audrey Cunningham Forensics 500 Speech & Debate Tournament! The University of Indianapolis Department of Communication will host this event on Saturday, December 5, 2026. This will be a swing competition with the Butler University Circle City Classic tournament, which takes place on Sunday, December 6, 2026.

The UIndy Forensics 500 is a one-day tournament with both Individual Events and IPDA Debate. The tournament is structured in two flights plus finals, with all 11 NFA I.E. events included. **Students can only compete in I.E. or IPDA—NOT both**. For I.E. events, we rank an open division so entries are unlimited per event. Tournament registration will be run through **Speechwire.com**. We will recognize top novices and create novice sections for any event if necessary.

We will involve as many alums and local judges as possible to lighten the judging load, but all judges are expected to be available for finals. I.E. slots will be $8 per slot. We will have guest internet access for all competitors; however, we unfortunately cannot guarantee access to technology for visual aids in competition rooms.

For those of you coming out of town, there are several nice hotels off I-65 and the Southport Road exit as well as Holiday Inn Express and Comfort Inn on S. East Street (near I-465 and US 31). All parking lots are unrestricted on UIndy's campus on the weekend. There are several lots directly behind the library and Fine Arts Center. There are several restaurants near the university available to order from through Doordash or Grubhub. We will provide coffee, donuts, and afternoon snacks for all attendees. Pizza will be provided in the judges' lounge.

So, join us in Esch Hall (1330 Otterbein Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46227) for the competition and celebration of our forensics tradition! Please contact Manuel Reyes at reyesmg@uindy.edu with any and all questions. Note that the entry deadline is 5:00 pm, EST, Tuesday, December 1, 2026. More information to come on speechwire.com. We look forward to welcoming you to our campus!

All the best,

Manuel Reyes

Director of Forensics

Assistant Professor of Practice

University of Indianapolis

Tournament Director

Ally Nickerson
Assistant Coach
University of Indianapolis
Co-Tournament Director

Jordan Weddle
Assistant Coach
University of Indianapolis

Tournament Schedule

Times	IE's	DEBATE
7:15 AM	Registration	Registration
8:00 AM	Extemp Draw RD 1	RD 1 Draw
8:30 AM	RD 1: DI, DUO, EXT, INFO, POE	RD 1 Start
9:45 AM	Extemp Draw RD 2	RD 2 Draw
10:15 AM	RD 2: DI, DUO, EXT, INFO, POE	RD 2 Start
11:00 AM	LUNCH	
11:30 AM		RD 3 Draw
12:00 PM		RD 3 Start
12:15 PM	RD 1: ADS,IMP,PER,POI,PRO,RC	
12:45 PM		RD 4 Draw
1:15 PM		RD 4 Start
1:45 PM	RD 2: ADS,IMP,PER,POI,PRO,RC	
2:15 PM		Quarter-Finals Draw
2:45 PM		Quarter-Finals Start
3:00 PM	EXT PREP FINALS	
3:15 PM	IE FINALS: DI, DUO, EXT, INFO, POE	
3:30 PM		Semi-Finals Draw
4:00 PM		Semi-Finals Start
4:30 PM	IE FINALS: ADS,IMP,PER,POI,PRO,RC	
4:45 PM		Finals Draw
5:15 PM		Finals Start
6:30 PM OR ASAP	AWARDS	AWARDS

Open Door Policy

We will have an open-door policy for every round. Competitors and observers may leave the round as needed and shall not be penalized for exiting a round at any time. Please wait to return between performances. Judges are encouraged to take a brief break as needed in between performances.

Awards

Individual sweepstakes awards will be given to the top three speakers in the following categories: Novice IPDA, Varsity IPDA, Individual Events

Team sweepstakes awards will be given to the top three teams for individual events and overall

Additionally, the Audrey Cunningham Quality Award will be given to the school with the highest number of average points per competitor (i.e., total sweepstakes points/number of competitors). Every school entered at the tournament is eligible to win this award.

Sweepstakes points will be determined from the following formula:

a) Preliminary rounds - points of the competitors in each event will count toward team awards. Each 1 (rank of one) in prelims will earn 3 points. Each 2 (rank of two) in prelims will earn 2 points. Each 3 (rank of three) in prelims will earn 1 point. Each win or bye in parliamentary debate will earn 3 points.

b) Final rounds. 1st place will earn 9 points. 2nd place will earn 8 points. 3rd place (or semifinals in parliamentary debate) will earn 7 points. 4th place will earn 6 points. 5th place (or quarterfinals in parliamentary debate) will earn 5 points. 6th place will earn 4 points.

c) All placings beyond 6th place in the final round (including octafinals in parliamentary debate) will earn 3 points.

d) If an individual event has only one section during preliminary rounds, the points for Sweepstakes will be determined the same as events with multiple sections.

Event Logistics

All Individual Events will run according to AFA-NST rules. Please see tournament specific alterations or clarifications below.

IPDA Debate- IPDA COMPETITION RULES
Our tournament will follow IPDA rules found within the IPDA Constitution and

Bylaws, which were last updated in October 2018. To view the constitution, please visit the website at: https://www.ipdadebate.info/constitution-bylaws

The IPDA Debate format is as follows:
Topic strikes will happen in the competition room with 5 topics provided for strikes. Negative strikes first, and then turns are taken until one topic remains to be debated. Competitors may leave room after striking

Topic disclosure is encouraged, and debaters will be allowed to consult with teammates during prep time, including coaches. Additionally, students may keep their own time using a timer or phone as a timekeeping device. **Competitors may not use internet access during the round. If a phone is used for a timer, it must be on airplane mode.**

Time limits:
Affirmative Constructive: 5 minutes
Cross-Examination: 2 minutes
Negative Constructive: 6 minutes
Cross-Examination: 2 minutes
First Affirmative Rebuttal: 3 minutes
First Negative Rebuttal: 5 minutes
Second Affirmative Rebuttal: 3 minutes

Coaches must enter their IPDA entries in the appropriate division—novice or Varsity. For our tournament, a novice IPDA debater is defined as one with no prior debate experience. (OR FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE DEBATE)

Scheduling:

- For all out-round competitions, the siding of the debate will be determined by a coin flip, unless the two opposing teams had debated one another earlier in the tournament, in which case the teams will debate the opposite sides as before.