



WEBSTER CLASSIC NOVEMBER 13 AND 14

Dear Coaches,

The Webster University Forensics and Debate Team is pleased to invite your team to the Second Annual Webster Classic High School Forensics and Debate Tournament on Friday, November 13th and Saturday November 14th, hosted on the campus of Webster University. We are very pleased to offer this tournament for you and to welcome you to our home campus. We would ask that you read the whole invite as we want to make sure you know all we have to offer. **We have changed a few things for this year so be sure to read closely.** All teams are welcome to enter up to **THREE** per event. Additional entries will be granted depending on our judging and building availability. You may add to the waitlist, and these will be released as space allows. However, you **must** associate an entry with a name to claim those spots in the waitlist line.

While we hope and plan to provide a sufficient number of judges from the Webster community, we will need judges from your schools to help us fill the gaps. We ask that local schools note the judging obligations for each school later in the invitation. Fill out our <https://forms.gle/vqodkHQdWGWEkDNA> for ANY of your school judges, including coaches. We will do our best to use our judges and school judges, but we ask that coaches/assistant coaches be available to judge in a few rounds.

Please register through SpeechWire by **Thursday, November 5th at 4 pm**. *No additional entries will be accepted after this time.* Adjustments can be made to existing entries after this date only if room allows. Drops can be made without penalty by **Wednesday, November 11th at 4 pm**.

We hope to see you in November!

Your hosts,

Gina Jensen
Co-tournament Director
Director of Forensics
314-223-6141 (cell)
jensen@webster.edu

Scott Jensen
Co- Tournament Director
Former Director of Forensics

Tom Serfass
Co-Tournament Host
Assistant Director of Forensics
314-853-2553 (cell)
tomserfass@gmail.com

Emma Terris
Co-Tournament Host
Assistant Coach

Events Offered

We reserve the right to collapse divisions and/or events if numbers are low.

Each school may enter up to, but no more than THREE in each division and FOUR in Congress. Waitlist will be implemented on a first-come, first-serve basis. Charge is \$8/entry.

Varsity	Novice
Congress	Congress
US Extemporaneous Speaking	Combined Extemporaneous Speaking
International Extemporaneous Speaking	Combined Interpretation (HI/DI)
Humorous Interpretation	Duo Interpretation
Dramatic Interpretation	Combined Prose/Poetry Reading
Duo Interpretation	Informative Speaking
POI	Original Oratory
Informative Speaking	Radio Speaking
Original Oratory	Storytelling
Storytelling	
Radio Speaking	
	Novice Policy
Champion Policy	Novice Lincoln Douglas
Champion Lincoln Douglas	Novice Public Forum
Champion Public Forum	
Varsity Policy	
Varsity Lincoln Douglas	
Varsity Public Forum	

Schedule

*All should plan to arrive at their assigned room 15 minutes before the start time so we can keep the tournament on time.
A campus map is provided to help you find buildings on campus.*

Friday, November 13, 2026

3:00 pm Registration and Ballot Table (University Center 175 Edgar Road)
4:00 pm Debate Round 1
5:45 pm Debate Round 2
7:30 pm Debate Round 3

Saturday, November 14, 2026

7:00 am Registration and Ballot Table (University Center 175 Edgar Road)
7:30 am Extemp Draw Round 1
8:00 am Individual Events Round 1
Congress
9:15 am Extemp Draw Round 2
9:30 am Individual Events, Round 2
Congress
11:00 am Debate Round 4
12:45 pm Extemp Draw for Finals
1:00 pm Individual Events Finals,
Supersession
3:00 pm Awards
4:30 pm Semifinals Policy, PF & LD
6:00 pm Finals Policy, PF & LD

Deadlines

Initial Entries	Finalized Entries
Due in SpeechWire by Thursday, Nov 5th @ 4 pm <i>No Schools may enter after this time.</i> <i>(You can include named waitlist entries, and we will accommodate as space allows.)</i>	Drops / changes are due in SpeechWire by Wednesday, Nov. 11 @ 4 pm <i>Any drops after this time will be charged an entry fee.</i>

Judge Submissions
All obligated judging assignments must be entered on https://forms.gle/vqodkHQdWGWEkKDNA by Monday, Nov. 9 @ 4 pm <i>Any obligation not met could result in the dropping of entries.</i>

Judging Requirements and Expectations

Schools will be obligated to provide rounds for judging based on entry totals. Schools will be expected to withdraw entries to meet expectations if necessary. Judge obligations are:

- 1 judge for every 12 event entries at each tournament
- 1 judge for every 8 debate entries at each tournament

Eligible Judges include:

- Coaches should mark as much availability as possible. Your MSHSAA-required supervisory coach will be considered on STANDBY for ALL rounds. It will help us if you tell us who that is and when. Unless you do not bring other judges, then we will have to use them in a pinch.
- Any alumni are eligible to judge.
- **Please note, in order to keep the tournament on time, all balloting will be done electronically this year. This may be done on a phone, tablet or computer. Instructions can be found here <https://youtu.be/YJXxeVS-KgM?si=fZcEdk0a7xUYezqG> for electronic ballots.** Paper ballots available upon request.

All judges (including coaches) should sign up <https://forms.gle/vqodkHQdWGWEkKDNA>.

Coaches should fill out <https://forms.gle/wgyeHS9MT9cjaG2g9> to let us know who will be supervising their team throughout the tournament. (We will do our best to avoid using coaches to judge.)

Judge Expectations:

- Please sign up knowing you should arrive in your room 15 minutes prior to start time. Any rounds you sign up to judge will likely be assigned to you. Do not sign up for a time you cannot make it.
- All judge comments should focus on the competitor's performance in the round - not on their clothing/attire, if they are masked, etc.

For more information, please see our judge training recommendations. Please note this site will be updated as we draw closer to our tournament dates.

Fees and Payment

The tournament fee schedule is...

IE and Debate entries	\$8.00
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Payments may be made to: **Webster Forensics and Debate**

***Please make every effort to pay at the tournament or shortly after ***

Payments may be mailed to:

Gina Jensen
Webster University
Sam Priest Building
470 E. Lockwood
St. Louis, MO 63119

*****It is essential that checks are made out to the forensics team and my name be on the envelope or our team will not receive payment. Thank you!*****

How to Register

1. Coaches will need to log in to Speechwire.com to accept the tournament invitation.
2. You will register your team as usual. You will also need to [register each student's account](#).
 - a. Log into SpeechWire and click team roster
 - b. For students already listed on your roster, click the student you want to send an activation email to. Use the email field to add their email address, and when that is saved, the student will immediately receive an email with an activation link to activate their account.
 - c. For students not listed on your roster, use the fields at the top of the page to add students. If an email address is included, then the student will immediately receive an email with an activation link to activate their account.
 - d. Make sure that students can access their account BEFORE the tournament.
3. You will NOT input judges into SpeechWire. Please sign judges up here <https://forms.gle/vqodkHQdWGWekDNA> . The tournament host will create judging accounts.

General Rules

- ALL SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A SUPERVISING COACH (PER MSHSAA REQUIREMENTS) PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT as well as the number of judges required by the entry.
- All attendees are expected to adhere to campus rules (ie. no smoking, etc.) and be respectful of the space.
- All attendees are expected to clean up trash and clean up any spills. Last year, campus was left a mess and we almost lost hosting privileges.
- The main ballot table and the tournament headquarters will be located in the University Center but there will be auxiliary ballot tables in each building being used.
- All students and judges are expected to arrive in their rooms 15 minutes prior to the start of the round.
- A student may enter up to two events OR student congress.
- Debaters may not enter more than one debate event: Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum.

- Debate divisions may be collapsed if they are too small.
- Novice divisions of Individual Events will be collapsed into open if they are too small.
- We do not break brackets in debate.
- Extempers may not enter more than one division: International or US.
- **Extempers should go to extemp draw first due to the buried draw.**
- Except for a change necessitated by a double entry, contestants are expected to speak in the order assigned
- In Extemp, speaking order will take precedence for those double-entered. Extemp speeches will be given FIRST.
- Any student more than ten minutes late to a round will forfeit participation in that round (provided the delay is not the fault of the tournament). DOUBLE-ENTERED STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE BOTH PERFORMANCES IN THE TIME ALLOTTED FOR EACH ROUND. Double-entered students are expected to inform their judges that they may be late prior to the start of the round.
- The use of the internet during rounds WILL be permitted. Please review the [MSHSAA rules](#) regarding this issue. While the internet access will be offered, reliable access is not guaranteed. Students should prepare accordingly. There will be no access to printers on site.
- All rounds will allow for spectators. All individuals in the room are expected to adhere to community health norms and reasonable requests. If these cannot be followed, the tournament reserves the right to remove spectators' access.
- We will be using electronic ballots on SpeechWire. Here is a link to SpeechWire instructions for electronic ballots <https://youtu.be/YJXxeVS-KgM?si=fZcEdk0a7xUYeqqG> . Paper ballots available upon request.
- Please bring a device—phone, tablet or computer and a charger.
- We have an open-door policy in all rounds. Students may leave if the subject matter makes them uncomfortable or for health reasons. They do not need to seek permission.

Community Health Considerations

- Any attendee can choose to mask however it will not be required. This includes during performances. No judge can rank someone down for the use of a mask.
- Please practice universal precautions such as hand washing.
- Any refusal to adhere to guest requests or universal precautions will result in removal from the premises.

Hospitality

For Students: We will offer a concession stand for your students to purchase food and drinks. We hope to have a variety of foods, snacks, and drinks. We will offer a mix of healthy and candy/baked good snacks and pizza and other foods. We will have soda, water and juice boxes.

For Coaches: We plan to offer a hospitality room with food, drink and snacks available for coaches and judges for the length of the tournament.

Event Specific Rules

DEBATE RULES:

- We will default to [MSHSAA Rules](#) for all MSHSAA Events.
- We will collapse divisions if the numbers are too small.
- Email chains should be set up and offered to all competitors and judges before the round begins.
- We will not break brackets in outrounds.
- Advancing will be determined by:
 - Win/Loss record
 - Head-to-head
 - Record of opponent lost to
 - Total opposition record
 - Oppositions' opposition record
 - Total speaker points if needed
- Per [MSHSAA guidelines](#), debate prep time is as follows.
 - Policy: 8 minutes per side
 - Lincoln Douglas: 4 minutes per side
 - Public Forum: 3 minutes per side

Policy Debate—Two-person teams will debate the NSDA/MSHSAA topic: [Resolved](#): ***Resolved: The United States federal government should establish national health insurance in the United States.*** 8 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. No mavericks.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate—Individuals will debate the November/December NSDA/MSHSAA topic. ***Resolved: De-extinction is unethical.*** 4 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per speaker. Per MSHSAA rules, we will NOT be using the Novice LD topic. All students should prepare the Nov/Dec topic.

Public Forum Debate—Two-person teams will debate the November/December NSDA/MSHSAA topic: ***Resolved: European members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.*** 3 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. Teams will flip each round even if they have met before. The winner of the coin toss can choose either side (pro or con) OR the speaker position (first or last). The coin toss loser has the other choice.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS RULES:

- We will default to [MSHSAA Rules](#) for all MSHSAA Events. Non-MSHSAA events will use [NSDA rules](#).
- Novice divisions will be collapsed into open if the numbers are too small.
- Advancing 6 to finals will be determined by:
 - lowest total cumulative ranks
 - Total speaker ratings from the round
- Final placings will be determined by:

- Lowest total cumulative speaker ranks
- Judges' preference
- Reciprocals
- Total speaker ranking from the round

Original Oratory—An original persuasive speech is written by the contestant, containing no more than 150 words of quoted material. Memorized delivery is required in the varsity division. Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Informative Speaking— An original informative speech is written by the contestant. Memorized delivery is required in the varsity division. Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. The goal is to educate, not to advocate. Visual aids are allowed. Please read the [RULES](#) Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Extemporaneous Speaking—

- We are using a **partially buried extemp draw**. This means that 15 mins of draw will be during the round itself to save time. It is essential that students go to draw at the beginning of the round.
- Contestants must report to draw 15 minutes before draw is scheduled to begin (if possible). Students will be shown three topics and will tell the draw chair what they select. They will have thirty minutes to prepare a speech. They must remain in the draw room for prep. They will be dismissed.
- Speech time limit—7 minutes maximum, no minimum.
- Outlets are not guaranteed in the draw room so students should be sure to have their devices charged.

Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation—Memorized selections from published material of literary merit are presented. Movement below the waist should be limited. Selections are to be properly introduced. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Duo Interpretation—A memorized selection of any published source of literary merit is performed by two students. Performers may stand in any arrangement suitable. Offstage focus should be used. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Program of Oral Interpretation (POI) – Students create a theme or argument through the use of narrative, story, language, and/or characterization. They draw on selections from at least two of the following: prose, poetry, and/or drama. A manuscript must be used and the pieces must be properly introduced. [NSDA rules](#) will be used. Time limit – 10 minutes

Storytelling – Students narrate a published story originally intended for children using a combination of their own words and original essential phrases. The story will be presented using bodily movement and characterization. The contestant must keep her/his derriere in contact with the seat of the chair or stool, throughout the entire performance, using the stationary chair or stool provided by the tournament host/site. Selections are to be properly introduced. Time limit—8 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Radio Speaking – Students prepare and present a script with international, national and local news, weather and sports. Copy should be no more than 24 hours old as of the tournament’s first round. There should be NO commercials and students are not to portray multiple characters. Electronic devices are permitted for reading copy and/or as timing devices so long as they are on silent. Judges should not face presenters. Time limit – 5 minutes. (Presenters should aim for this precise time.)

Congress—We will be running an **NSDA-style Congressional Debate**. There will be three preliminary sessions in which judges will rank their top 8 competitors after scoring the complete session. There will be one super session with 12 – 15 students. Depending on the number of entries, we will advance between the top 2 – 5 students in each chamber if they receive the lowest cumulative rank across the three sessions.

- Advancing to supersession will be determined by:
 - Lowest total cumulative ranks within chambers
 - Total preliminary reciprocals
 - Total preliminary speech scores
- Final placings will be determined by:
 - Lowest total cumulative ranks within the chamber
 - Judges’ preference
 - Final round reciprocals
 - Speech score totals in finals
 - Speech score totals from preliminary rounds
- **For legislation,** we will use the [Eastern Missouri docket](#). Chambers will default to AUTHORSHIP speeches but will allow SPONSORSHIP speeches if there is no authoring school in the room.

Awards and Sweepstakes

We will recognize the top-six competitors in each event as well as semi-finalists in debate. We will recognize the top 5 teams in sweeps.

Points in Events & Debate will be awarded to the top entries as follows:

Any entry.....	1 point
Event Semifinals.....	5 points
Event Finals.....	10 points
Event Third Place.....	5 points
Event Second Place.....	10 points
Event First Place.....	15 points
Advancing to Debate Outrounds.....	15 points

Land Acknowledgement Statement

It is important for us here at Webster University, in alignment with our mission to enrich lives and build community through communication, to acknowledge that the land beneath us owes its vitality to generations who have come before us. In the spirit of making erased and silenced histories visible, Webster Forensics and Debate chooses to learn about, come to terms with, and share the truth of Westward Expansion. Webster Forensics acknowledges its community spaces rest on the traditional land of Indigenous People that have stewarded and cared for this land for centuries. We acknowledge that we are standing on the ancestral and occupied lands of the Illini Confederacy, Osage Nation and the

Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówin, O-ga-xpa Ma-zho (Quapaw), Kaskaskia, Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), and Missouri tribes. They are the peoples to whom we pay our respects. We acknowledge that this land was stolen and acquired through a history of violence. While Webster remains on these lands, we will attempt to do honor to their histories and ask you to join us in uncovering such histories at any and all public in-person and virtual events. We encourage you to learn more about Indigenous communities and land where you live and to honor those who made their homes on this land before us."

Parking and Campus Location

Our campus is located on Big Bend, Edgar, and Garden Roads. Our mailing address is not our physical address. Here are some addresses for the buildings (all very walkable). While we are walkable, we are a college campus and nothing in comparison to the size of Mizzou, but bigger than high school campuses. Our student staff will be prepared to help you find your way. If the weather is dry, we will also chalk the sidewalks.

Registration and Main Ballot Table: University Center 175 Edgar Road

Auxiliary Ballot Tables: In each building being used.

Parking: Parking is located behind the University Center and in the parking garage on Garden Ave. While there are other lots you can park in, these are the closest to the ballot table.

East Academic Building (EAB): 545 Garden Ave

Sverdrup Building (SV): 8300 Big Bend

Webster Hall (WH): 470 E. Lockwood (but better to access it on Big Bend across from Sverdrup

Browning Hall/Interdisciplinary Science Building (ISB): 8274 Big Bend

Sam Priest Center (PRST): 8270 Big Bend

Library (LIB): 101 Edgar Road

Campus Map—Headquarters are as the University Center: 175 Edgar Road



1. 40 N Rock Hill Rd	13. Hunt House	25. Pearson House (PRSN)
2. 200 Hazel Ave	14. Loretto Hall (LRTH)	26. Quad
3. Webster Village Clubhouse	15. Loretto Hilton Cntr (LHCT)	27. Schultz Hall – Eden (SCHL)
4. Community Music Schl (CMS)	16. Love House (ALUM)	28. Sverdrup Hall (SVER)
5. Counseling/Student Health	17. Luhr Building (LUHR)	29. Thompson Bldg (MUSC)
6. East Academic Building (EAB)	18. Maria Hall (RES)	30. University Center (UC)
7. East Hall (REAS)	19. Marletto's Marketplace	31. Visual Arts Studio (VAST)
8. Emerson Library	20. Multicultural Cntr (MCIS)	32. Volleyball Court
9. Facilities Operations	21. Offices for the Rep Theatre	33. Webster Hall (WEBH)
10. Garden Park Plaza	22. Old Orchard Center (MILL)	34. West Hall (RWES)
11. Grant Gymnasium	23. Online Learning Cntr (OLC)	35. Winifred Moore Aud.
12. H. Sam Priest Cntr (HSPC)	24. Opera Theatre of St Louis	36. Browning Hall (BROH)

