

How to Go to a Speech and Debate Tournament

A Week Before

- A) **Clothes:** Get your clothes together well before the tournament. FORMAL clothes. (Pretend you're an attorney in a courtroom.) Dress shoes, slacks, tie, etc. NO JEANS. NO TENNIS SHOES. Ladies: avoid print blouses and tops. The full dress code is on the pbcfl.net website.
- B) **Money:** The tournament costs \$25. This includes lunch. Pay before the tournament. (If money is an issue in your family, please talk to Mr. Hall privately and well ahead of time.) Any student who brings a judge does not have to pay for the tournament.
- C) **Judges:** To compete, we must have a certain number of intelligent adults to judge the competitors. Ask your parents, aunts and uncles, grandparents, etc., if they can judge. If we don't have the necessary number of judges, we can't compete, and students will be dropped.

Wednesday Before the Tournament

This is the last day to drop from the tournament. Any student left in registration is committed for the Saturday tournament. Any student who drops after this day is still responsible for the \$25. ***If we don't have the judges committed by Wednesday, students will be dropped.***

Day Before

- A) **Materials:** Be sure you have copies of your case, play, binders, pens, flow pads, timers, etc.
- B) Be sure your clothes meet the dress code. Be sure your shoes are comfortable.
- C) Make sure you have transportation to the high school. (Many students meet that morning at the Starbucks at the Wellington Green Mall. They then carpool to the tournament school.)
- D) Make sure you know what high school we are going to. Make sure you get directions if you need them.
- E) DON'T go to the football game and yell yourself hoarse. DO get a good night's sleep.

Tournament Morning:

- A) Eat a good breakfast. Do not drink milk or any milk products. It coats the throat and interferes with the clarity of your speech.
- B) Carpool. We don't need every parent to have to drive that morning.
- C) Arrive at the tournament school by 7:45. After 8 am, late students will be docked points. After 8:15, you will be dropped from the tournament. A local tournament often has 20 high schools and 400 students in 8 different events. Starting the tournament on time is one of the hardest things the coaches have to do. That is why we must be strict on arrival times.
- D) If you're running late, you need to **call Mr. Hall at (561) 578-3799. You may still be dropped.**
- E) Meet in the cafeteria and report immediately to Mr. Hall. **STAY WITH THE CENTRAL TEAM** in the cafeteria. You need to get your speech ballots, your codes, school map, your lunch ticket, and any special instructions.
- F) Judges report to the Judges' Chambers (usually the Media Center).

Tournament Day

- A) ***The tournament starts the minute you arrive on campus.*** There are roughly 100 judges at a local tournament. They are in the parking lot, the cafeteria, and the hallways, just like you. So if you are sloppily dressed, loud, speaking rudely or using profanity, running around, etc., you are creating a negative impression. ***Conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times when you are on campus.*** This is a school-sponsored activity and school rules are enforced. Referrals are written for gross misconduct.
- B) Be especially attentive and polite in the competition rooms. Do not enter the classroom until the judge arrives. Do not pass notes, sleep, chew gum, text on cell phones, listen to IPOD's, eat or drink (water is OK), or talk during performances. **ALWAYS** applaud and support your speech opponents. **ALWAYS** shake your opponents' hands after a debate. **ALWAYS** thank your judge for giving up their Saturday for you.
- C) ***If you ever have a problem with a competitor or a judge, stay polite.*** As soon as you can, find Mr. Hall and he will deal with it. (Mr. Hall is almost always in the Tab Room.) If you can't find Mr. Hall, ask another coach in the Tab Room to help you.
- D) Student Congress runs 2 ½ hours in the morning, 2 ½ hours in the afternoon, with lunch in between. The house assignments are published the morning of the tournament. Students must report to the correct room to receive full credit for the day. (Sitting and watching gets you half credit.) A 2nd semester student must speak at least twice for full credit. A student in their 3rd semester must speak at least 3 times, 4th semester 4 times, etc.
- E) Speech and Debate students will compete 4 times during the day. After registration, postings will go up around the cafeteria. Students find the paper with their event, find their name or code, and report immediately to the room assigned. Students must wait outside their room until the judge arrives. Speech students will hand the judge one of their ballots. The student will write on the ballot: their name, their code, and the title and author of their piece. **DO NOT TELL THE JUDGE WHAT SCHOOL YOU ARE FROM.** The purpose of the codes is to keep the schools anonymous. If they insist, tell them, and then tell the coaches in the Tab room after the round.
- F) ***Stay in the cafeteria between rounds.*** If you need a lunch ticket, see Mr. Hall. Students are never allowed to leave campus until the end of the competition day. If an emergency arises and the student must leave, you must speak with Mr. Hall first.

Awards Ceremony:

- A) You must stay until the end of awards to receive full credit for the tournament. Since there are so many competitors, judges, and events, it takes a while to enter all of the results at the very end of the day. You will have down time after the 4th round and before the awards ceremony. Stay patient, have fun with your new friends and teammates, and relax after a long day.
- B) Stand and applaud for the 1st place winner in each event. Always show good sportsmanship to those who may have beaten you.
- C) We always take a few team photos and photos of our winners after the tournament, so don't miss out on that.
- D) Your ballots will be handed to you after awards. To receive full credit for the tournament, you must give those back to Mr. Hall by the Monday after the tournament.
- E) Remember, ***IT'S ALL ABOUT THE TOURNAMENTS!***