

# Forensics “Newbie’s” Manual

**Everything you ever needed to know about the most important and most rewarding high school activity!**



## **The top five (5) reasons to join the Speech & Debate team ...**

### **#1. You love being the center of attention!**

If you crave the spotlight and want all eyes on you, then this is the place for you... each weekend you take your brains or the comedic/dramatic flare and turn it into a spectacle for judges and fellow competitors.

### **#2. You HATE being the center of attention!!**

If you clam up at the idea of someone's eyes turning in your general direction, begin sweating at the thought of an oral presentation, and pass out when you try karaoke, and then this is also the place for you. This is the place to conquer the number one fear in the world ... public speaking.

### **#3. You are looking to attend college, and add activities to your resume.**

The number one item looked for with an Ivy League College is debate, second is competitive speech. There is no other "sport" in the world that stimulates all of the senses, requires constant interaction, develops critical analysis, promotes individual success with an entire team's support; and all the while refining communicative skills and acting, as well as allowing for your opinions and ideas to be heard. This is drama, the courtroom, and an aerobics workout rolled into one!

### **#4. You want to promote your school's spirit!**

If you are looking for an elective that screams school pride then look no further! You can be a member of the Speech & Debate team, and continue to represent your school at the local, regional, state and national level with the area of competitive forensics, sign up now and bring home the "Glitter and Gold!"

### **#5. You enjoy shopping, food and travel ...**

So it's not one thing, but there are so many exciting perks about forensics you can hardly contain them in (5) little reasons, so join and find out about the most amazing personal and team adventure that you'll ever have!!!

... **Myth busters Episode #1** ...

**Myth #1. “I thought this was going to be a easy ...”**

**Truth: The price of greatness is responsibility.**

~ **Sir Winston Churchill**

This activity will provide collective constructive criticism and encouragement, but that is based completely on your individual performance. Individual responsibility is a required skill; either to be grown or gained.

**Myth #2. “I was going to work on it ...”**

**Truth: You can’t build a reputation on what you are going to do.**

~ **Henry Ford**

There is no time like the present, and we will all take a nap after graduation, until then it a necessary evil to be on top of the game. Practice, then, is the best of all teaching tools; continue to work on your scripts and cases until they achieve perfection ... and since that isn’t possible, continue to work like it is! Coaching sessions, work with teammates, practice every day!

**Myth #3. “I’m not as good at this as so and so ...”**

**Truth: Whether you think that you can, or that you can’t, you are usually right.**

~ **Henry Ford**

Due to the fact that this is an individual sport the only person that you are in immediate competition with is yourself. YOU must then push yourself to reach for the unknown grab a hold of it and succeed, at whatever level you desire ... you are the only one capable of making the decision for you. You are then the only one to blame as well.

**Myth #4. “The rules will be bent for me ...”**

**Truth: "He who lives in solitude may make his own laws."**

~ **Publilius Syrus**

As for the rules of the team they are made with the understanding that it is within the best interest of the team, and thus must be abided by. Deadlines are not negotiable, especially for tournaments and paperwork. Don’t ask for special favors, you won’t get them.

**Myth #5. “Done it once ... done it a hundred times.”**

**Truth: “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act, but a habit.”**

~ **Aristotle**

Revision of your script or case is necessary to ensure you are as enthusiastic about it in April as you were in September. You as individuals, exploding with potential, must understand that precision in performance and execution is the key to perfecting your skill. You have to own your successes and your failures.



Dear "Newbie's:"

(This "Newbie" term is an affectionate name you will be called until you have either lasted a year in the program ... or until you have agreed to sell your soul to this activity!)☺

Let me just begin by saying that I am personally honored and truly ecstatic that you would opt to join the Speech and Debate team. Thank you for being willing to take a risk to think outside the box, act like the world isn't watching, voice an opinion and find the research to back it, and be who you truly are.

I can understand if you are a bit nervous! The activity is a performance, competitive public speaking, extra curricular activity ... who wouldn't be nervous?! However, I make you this promise ... you are going to love the challenge and grow immensely from every experience, not just within the competitive realm of winning and losing; rather in the life skills that are attached to something like this. You will increase your self esteem as you realize that you are capable of anything!! You will be afraid, but able to take risks, receive critiques, in spite of the initial fears, and look back wondering why the jitters ever got you. You will find friendship, true competition and even a safety net that will emulate a "family" environment. You will always have a challenge, you will always find success, either in the form of trophies or in the most important area; that of personal accomplishments. You will forever be a winner here ... In fact you've already won my undying affection just by signing up!!! ☺ I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you ... I hope this is a great year for you ... make no bones about it, there will be work to be done, but in the end it makes the "playing" so much more rewarding!

Sincerely,

Your Coach

### **Activity Objectives:**

1. To gain confidence.
2. To articulate ideas and opinions.
3. To increase imagination, creativity, and acting skills.
4. To accept constructive criticism and to make necessary modifications.
5. To enhance writing capabilities.
6. To increase skills in critical analysis, research, organization and general knowledge base.
7. To learn how to win with class and lose with dignity.
8. To develop a strong work ethic and the privileges it affords.
9. To create a sense of community in a diverse student population.
10. To have fun, this can't be stated enough! (And bring home the gold) ☺

### **Activity Description:**

Forensics (Speech and Debate) is the study of public speech and formal argumentation. Students apply what they learn, to the competitions that they attend on the weekend.

### **Tournament Attire:**

You are expected to be in professional dress, "tournament dress," at all tournaments. No matter what, your attire should not hinder the judges from understanding what you are saying. The coach and/or assistant coach will determine if your clothing is appropriate prior to the tournament.

**You must obtain, and present, your tournament attire prior to your first tournament; failure to do so may result in the withdrawal of the tournament.**

***Everyone must have a tournament bag!!***

You must have a tournament bag that goes with you to each round. This bag should be in good condition, and preferably not your school backpack. Shoulder bags seem to be the most professional, but backpacks can be used if they are approved. Included in the contents of this bag should be the following items:

#### **Mandatory Items:**

- \* Notebook and pens ... may also bring to tournament:
- \* Limited Prep Journals/ Debate Notebooks
- \* Water bottle
- \* Advil/ Tylenol
- \* Kleenex
- \* Cough drops
- \* Identification Card
- \* Money

#### **Optional Items: (may include the following)**

- \* Hygiene products
- \* Chap-stick/Make-up
- \* Extra pair of nylons & clear nail polish (for nylon runs)

- \* Bobby pins and hair ties, hair spray and/or gel.
- \* Cell phone (Make sure it is turned on silent or off during a round!)
- \* Breath mints or toothbrush/ toothpaste (no gum)
- \* Safety pins and band aids
- \* iPod/ CD Players

**Note: Scripts are not allowed for any reason.**

Please note that all bags are the individual students responsibility, they must carry with them at all items. Any lost, misplaced or stolen items will regretfully be lost, misplaced, or stolen.

## **Tournament Dress:**

### ***Guys:*** Business Attire ONLY!

- **Pants:** You must wear dress slacks. That means no extra pockets, no baggy pants; also no pants with holes, no cargo pants.
- **Belts:** Wear one! No studs or large, distracting, buckles.
- **Shirts:** A button-up, collared, shirt is required. Solid colors only.
- **Jackets:** A blazer is required. (During winter months especially, summer is optional depending on weather. However, purchase the whole suit.)
- **Ties:** Required. Simple patterns; no silly prints, no bow ties.  
**Note: You may NOT wear a “funny print” tie. If you have to have a “funny tie,” theory is...you aren’t so funny!**
- **Socks:** They must match the color of your slacks.
- **Shoes:** Dress shoes only. No skate shoes, no tennis shoes, no sandals.
- **Hair:** May not be in your face at any time. You must be clean shaven, hair styled in a business manner. No facial hair, dress code applies at all times.
- **Body Jewelry:** Only one watch, no rings or visible piercings.

### ***Girls:*** Business Attire ONLY!

- **Suite Sets:** Mandatory (skirt or pant suit). Colors must be black. No outrageous colors that would cause a distraction. A blazer is required. Target, Macy’s, Burlington Coat Factory, and JC Penny is great place to get the suits!
- **Skirt length:** To measure, place thumb at knee towards your torso, it may not be shorter than that. No slits. If too short, you may not wear them.
- **Shirts:** Solid colors; Button-up with a collar. No tank tops, No scoop necks.
- **Shoes:** Must have a heel of some sort (block heels are most comfortable and practical) also, must have a back. No flip-flops. No stilettos. No open toed shoes.
- **Nylons:** Nude or Black. No colors, no fishnet.
- **Jewelry:** One ring per hand, one watch, one bracelet, one necklace, one pair of earrings. No other visible body piercing.
- **Hair:** Must be pulled up and away from the face at all times. No exceptions.
- **Make-up:** Be conservative and natural. No glitter. No bright colors.

***Note:*** If you can see up it, down it, or through it, you will **NOT** compete!

**Please note that you are to remain in tournament attire all day!!!**

**You may not receive a trophy if you are out of “tournament dress”; this includes: shirt un-tucked, tie undone, blazer not on, hats/beanie on, etc.**

**If you are out of “tournament dress” then you will lose all points for that tournament.**

## **Classrooms (At School and Tournaments):**

- DO NOT leave food in the classroom.
- Pick up after yourself at lunch, afterschool.
- Do not leave clothing or items; it will be donated after one week in the room.
- The room is not a storage space, leave counters clean.
- No cussing.
- If you borrow something, (script, book, play, etc.) return it.
- While “banter” is acceptable, there is a need for respect of both coaches and one another. Do not interrupt, talk while others are talking or performing, or use hurtful humor at the expense of another.
- Be prepared to perform at any time.
- Deadlines are not negotiable.
- Performances in class are to be “as if in round.”
- Do NOT enter the room if a performance is in play.
- Character counts in and out of competition.
- Grades are to be kept as first priority, competition is second.

**Please note: The classroom after school is intended for those who are working; if you staying you need to be working on something. Not just “hanging out.” Team bonding is encouraged, but not at the expense of those who are trying to work.**

## **Travel:**

### **School bus behavior:**

- No moving while bus is in motion.
- No cursing.
- No throwing things out the window.
- No liquids on bus unless it has a sealed lid.
- Listen to all instructions, without additional commentary.
- No talking back to the bus driver; EVER.
- No changing on the bus.
- Say “Thank you” to the bus driver, often.
- No negative commentary regarding the bus driver’s ability.
- Ask bus driver, kindly, about: heat, air, radio and bathroom breaks.
- No putting belongings or bodies in the emergency exits.
- All luggage should be stacked uniformly, NOT just thrown in.
- One seat ought to be designated for suits to lay flat.
- Please refrain from Public Displays of Affection.

### **Exiting the bus:**

- Pick up all trash and personal belongings; leave nothing on the bus.
- If there is a spill clean it up, DO NOT leave for others to clean up.
- Carry team supplies off bus, everyone needs to participate.
- No one leaves parking lot until bus is spotless.



- \*If you leave before being released, campus beautification will be assigned.

### **Van Travel:**

- No cursing.
- Seat belts have to be worn at all times.
- Ask the driver, kindly, about: heat, air, radio and bathroom breaks
- No negative commentary regarding the driver's ability.
- Each time that you exit the van, take trash with you.

### **Tournaments:**

#### **You:**

- Always check postings for yourself. Double check before leaving for rounds.
- DO NOT write on body parts for ANY reason.
- Make sure you have your code with you.
- Double entry means go to the round that you are performing in the earliest speaking position, and then ask for permission to leave to go to your other round. Then do so.
- DO NOT ENTER THE ROOM WITHOUT A JUDGE!!!
- Thank judges for judging verbally only ... DO NOT shake hands!!!!
- Wish good luck to all other competitors on the way out the door.
- Practice in between rounds. "Talk to the Wall."
- Attend out rounds, whether or not you are performing.
- If you do not make it, DO NOT behave in an unbecoming manner.
- No leaving early, unless otherwise previously communicated with and prearranged with coaches.
- You must be physically seen, with those that are removing you from the competition site, prior to leaving. Text messages, phone calls and voice mails are NOT accepted. Failure to do so will result in keeping you from competing in future tournaments.
- **Win with honor and lose with dignity!!!**
- **At all times remember that it is about the "WE" NOT the "ME."**

#### **Awards:**

- Smile at all times when waiting for individual placing.
- Shake other competitor's hands during awards.
- Keep cheering for teammates to a minimum, no distracting outbursts.
- Clap for all competitors in finals.
- Stand for first place for ALL events.
- Stack chairs after ceremony.
- Ensure our area is spotless upon departure.
- Conversation from awards to bus will NOT involve trash talking.

#### **Team Table:**

- Snacks need to be brought by everyone.
- Trash is to be picked up by EVERYONE.
- Water bottles are to be marked for reuse.
- Conversation should be respectful at all times.
- Constructive criticism in-between rounds between team members; is acceptable.

**Tournament Procedures:**

- No trash talking other teams, judges or our own team.
- If there is an issue, communicate with coaches immediately; always alert via text first.
- DO NOT try to “handle” situations without coach knowledge or involvement.
- DO NOT enter the tab room or judges areas for any reason; unless instructed to by an authority.
- Should you communicate with other coaches, call them Mr. and/or Mrs. unless otherwise instructed to do so personally.
- Be respectful at all times with authority figures.

**Hotel Behavior:**

- DO NOT change the rooming assignments for ANY reason.
- Respect other guests at all times.
- Voices are to be low at all times.
- DO NOT let doors slam.
- Must remain in assigned as soon as curfew is enforced.
- Remain in room after “lights out.”
- No leaving the hotel unless otherwise specified.

## Team Behavioral Expectations:

You are a representation of your high school. Everything you do is a reflection of our school. Compromising the integrity of the team is unacceptable and grounds for dismissal from not only tournaments, but from the team. Therefore, please adhere to District Rules as well as the site Speech and Debate team guidelines:

#1. **“Ten Mile Rule”** Before, after, and during rounds, watch that there is NO negative communication regarding your person, another team member, fellow competitor or judge. Venting will happen in the privacy of our team far removed from the competition site and those who judge you or compete with you.

#2. **“Keep on Smiling”** Your attitude and competitive spirit need to remain positive in both victory and defeat. On stage, no matter what placing you receive your smile will NOT waver.

- a. While in the line-up for final placing you are expected to congratulate fellow competitors with both verbal comments and physical gestures of sincerity; i.e. a handshake, hug etc.

#3. **“Bad Boys”** Behavior that undermines team unity, or rules, will not be tolerated. Any student, who is unruly, disruptive, unsportsmanlike, or uncooperative at any time before, during, or after competition, can and will, be dropped from the tournament and potentially the team.

- a. Any student who lies for, covers for, ignores illegal behavior will be punished as severely as those who are taking action that may reflect badly on the school or put coaches in a position where they may lose their jobs and respect in the community.

#4. **“Howdy Partner”** Students who do team debate, or duo interpretation, should be aware that a partnership involves serious commitment.

- a. Partners will **NOT** be allowed until both people have competed in an individual event.
- b. Any DUO partnership must find both a humorous duo and serious duo piece for consideration.
- c. No partnerships are valid without coach consent. Making your own may result in none at all.

#5. **“The Dating Game”** Dating within the team can cause unnecessary distractions and create divisive action that disrupts team unity, thus is highly discouraged. ☹ Please note that should team dating occur, it leads to scrutiny from fellow students and coach; both parties will be talked to and held accountable.

#6. **“No Show”** Should you drop a local tournament, “no-show” a round, sit down without performing, look at your script in round, you WILL be charged the cost of that tournament entry.

#7. **“Bail Out Plan”** Should you drop an invitational you will assume the cost of your entry and drop fees; with the potential of having to absorb hotel fees as well. Financial obligations will be determined at coach’s discretion.

## Local & Invitational Tournament Procedures:

1. Come in tournament dress; do not bring a change of clothes.
2. Be at the tournament site, or bus site, by the designated time. **Be On time or Early!**
3. You are not allowed to drive to tournaments **EVER**, we arrive as a team!  
\*Should there be an emergency or specific need that mandates you driving to a tournament, you must do the following: have a written note from parent, no other passengers, follow the bus to site and surrender your keys upon arrival.
4. You need to bring with you to every tournament a **snack** that will feed (20) people; bag of chips, box of cookies, etc.
5. There will be a designated **“team table,”** you are expected to sit with your team for the time before you are given codes (and then for the duration of the awards ceremony); this is nonnegotiable.  
\***Note:** If you are not present when codes are given, you will be considered absent and consequently dropped from the tournament, resulting in a penalty fee.  
\***Note:** Please remember that your table needs to remain clean and tidy, honoring the school and our team’s reputation.
6. Before rounds begin, there will be a **team meeting**, called and led by your coaches, for codes, event clarifications, tournament questions, and vital information. **Be there!!**
7. Practice until the rounds are posted, getting into: **“tournament mode.”**
8. Rounds usually begin at 8:00 AM. ... Rounds may be later, always be ready!
9. Should you be late to a round, wait at the door until you hear the clapping to signal the end of a competitor’s performance; **do NOT just open the door!**
10. When you have finished performing remain in the room, and when the round has completed return to the student area and await postings for the next round. Stay focused! **Practice! Practice! Practice!**
11. **Go to all preliminary rounds. A “no-show” will result in financial penalty.**
12. In the unfortunate event that you are not in finals, you are expected to audit them, taking notes after each performance and turn those into the coaches after the rounds, for credit. If you do not turn in notes you will not attend the next tournament.
13. Tournament length varies on the number of entries and judge availability. Please **bring your judges!!** Expected time of tournament completion is between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Please contact and notify your ride of estimated time of departure prior to the awards ceremony (estimated one hour in length). So, they may meet you back at the school when we arrive.
14. **Awards Ceremonies are mandatory** and we will sit as a team. Cheer wildly for the team, when it is time!! Respect the one clap rule, if enforced.
15. During the awards ceremony the entire team will **stand for any, and every, first place award.**
16. You **MUST** remain in tournament dress until the completion of the awards ceremony. You will not be allowed to receive your trophy if not in tournament dress.
17. Leaving awards comes only with coach’s permission prior to the tournament. Written request from the parents must be submitted. Once approval is given and prior to actually leaving campus, the coach, or assistant coach, must have a “face to face” communication with student and/or the parent. **If coach is unavailable DO NOT LEAVE.** Failure to follow procedure will result in tournament termination and potentially, from the team.

**If you think it might be a bad idea ... don’t do it! Any questions as your coaches!**

## Invitational Tournament Schedules & Procedures:

**These tournaments are a privilege, not a right!** Please be aware that Invitationals cost significantly more than local tournaments (which the school pays for) and students are required to defer some of the cost. However, finances are never a reason not to attend! Please communicate with coaches regarding any concerns.

1. You will know that you have been invited to a tournament when you receive an invitation (in your classes) and a contract. Attendance at the invitational is confirmed upon return of said contract signed by both student and parent.

a. The invitation, however, is dependant upon the following:

1. Local tournament attendance and success.
2. Individual motivation (visible work ethic).
3. Piece preparedness, classroom critiques, and video taped sessions.
4. Being a member of good standing.
5. Grades, progress report must be signed by all teachers one week prior to leaving.

2. Travel, meal, and accommodation expenses for each student are to be **paid two weeks** prior to attending the tournament. Please see schedule for dates of tournaments and payments.

3. Dropping an invitational, for any reason, results in a team **financial penalty**, which will be deferred to the student. This includes, but is not limited to: entry fee, hotel expenses and transportation costs. Student Obligations will be filed immediately and if not paid can hinder another tournament, obtaining your schedule and/or graduation.

The average breakdown of expenses for any invitational tournament is as follows:

- \$45.00 a night for hotel expenses, per child
- \$20.00 minimum fee - \$90.00 maximum fee for single tournament entries. Note that these prices are set by the school extending the invitation.

4. Chaperones: Expenses for chaperones will need to be provided by the chaperones. If you are a parent interested in attending the invitational tournaments please know that you are required to drive your own car, arrange all hotel information on your own and provide your own food money; you are welcome to eat with the team, but your child remains in with the team at all times.

5. All food expenses are on the individual student, although we have suggested the amount of approximately \$32.00 a day. The suggestion comes from the following ideal breakdown:

- **\$5.00** for breakfast (as we typically stay with hotels that have a breakfast bar, or hot food selection so the funds are for the occasional starbuck runs)
- **\$7.00** for lunch (this we typically pool to get a lot of food for all the kids; pizza, subway sandwiches, KFC, etc.)
- **\$20.00** for dinner (as we try to have a healthy sit-down meal at the end of an exhausting day.)
- Totaling **\$32.00** a day, approximately.

When packing for Invitational Tournaments, please be mindful of limited space, and pack conservatively, as it is either in a van, bus, or plane.

## Information on the events:

There are three specific areas within Forensics, they are: **Platforms, Interpretations, and Limited Preparation Events.** Within each of these areas there are a number of different events; platforms are created by the student. Interpretations are written by another and performed by the student and Limited Preparation is created by the student, off the top of their head within a limited timeframe. Debate, in any category, is an event that is initially prepared from research and current events, but blends the drama and the extemporaneous speaking. All are welcome to try!

### **I. PLATFORMS:**

As you are writing your pieces, you must keep a copy of **all** information used while researching the topic, regardless of whether or not it is quoted material. These must be included in your MLA Works Cited page. Note that any script turned in without proper MLA format will not be allowed to compete.

#### Original Oratory (O.O.)



An original persuasive speech on a universal social problem. Student's intent is to arouse a concern and to persuade the reader that there is a significant social ill that must be addressed immediately. The call to action comes from personal, community, national and world levels. Some example topics are: "Apathetic Youth," "Overmedicated Society," "Ignorance is Bliss" or the "Blame Game"

#### Original Advocacy (O.A.)



An original persuasive speech including the identification of a problem and the offer of a clear, concise legislative solution on a national or statewide problem. Examples: "Banning T-Shirt Slogans," "Legalization of Prostitution," or "Removal of the Insanity Defense," or "Destroying the Power of Diplomatic Immunity."

#### Original Prose and Poetry (O.P.P)



A memorized acting exercise written and performed by the performer. This event is the culmination of both writing and acting; the student can create any story, one from personal experience, the next movie plot line ... literally anything and then tell it to an audience within a ten minute timeline.

#### Expository (EXPOS)

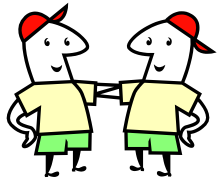


An original speech that provides information to, rather than persuading, the audience, it is enhanced by the ability to use visual aids as well. These speeches describe, clarify, illustrate, or define an object, idea, concept, or process. Examples: "Pez Dispensers," "Cannibalism," "Money," "Time," "Trash," "Left-Handed People," or "Kissing."

## II. INTERPRETATIONS:

Once you have chosen your script, you must provide two copies for the coach. The first copy is to be left completely blank; however, you must attach your introduction. On the second copy, you must highlight all spoken words (no stage directions, no character cues, etc.) as well as attach a highlighted introduction.

### DUO Interpretation (DUO)



A ten- minute memorized acting exercise performed by two students, from a play, novel, or any piece of literature. The event presents a **single** selection where each student may present one or more characters. There is no eye contact or touching allowed for any reason during the performance. Examples: "My Sisters Keeper," "Dud Wars," or "Tundra Games."

### Humorous Interpretation (H.I.)



A ten- minute memorized presentation of a comic or entertaining selection of literature conveyed through character voices, movement, and facial expressions presented by the student. Author's intent may be manipulated within reason. The purpose is to make people laugh. Examples: "Snow Sort of White," "*Horton Hatches the Egg* by Dr. Seuss," "I Hate My Sister," or "No More Mr. Funny Guy."

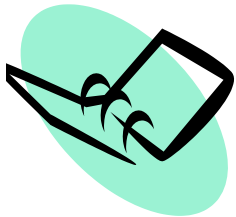
### Dramatic Interpretation (D.I.)



A ten- minute memorized presentation of a serious or contemplative selection of literature conveyed through character voices, movement, and facial expressions from the student.

Examples: "The Skin Game," "*For Colored Girls...Rainbow Is Enough* by N. Shange" or "Bein' Crazy."

### Thematic Interpretation (T.I.)



A ten- minute memorized acting exercise performed by a student who presents published selections tied thematically. Any song, poem, play, novel or literary excerpt may be used in the creation of such an event as this; a minimum of three is required. Sample Subject: "Amish;" using the song 'Amish Paradise' by Weird Al Yankovich, the novel Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult, and Amish Prayer a child book for praying, you create a thematic interpretation.

### Oratorical Interpretation (O.I.)



A ten-minute memorized presentation of a previously delivered, and published, speech. The aim is to effectively convey the message intended by the original speaker. Examples: "I Did Not Have Sex with That Woman' by Bill Clinton," "'Equality of Women' by Sojourner Truth," "A Few Lessons From Star Trek: From a Disabled Community's Standpoint,' or "Ten ways not to muck up the world worse than it already is..." by Russell Baker.

## II. LIMITED PREPERATION EVENTS:

These events are assumed to be the easiest as they are the ones that are spoken “from the hip;” however the preparation for the event is extensive. You will only be allowed to compete, if the prep work is done.

### National Extemporaneous (N.X.)

Everything deals with National issues.\*Some areas or current events may overlap. Example: War with Iraq (FX: How are the people of Iraq dealing with the invasion of American Troops?) or (NX: How does the American Public view the war with Iraq?)



There is a (7) minute maximum for the student to speak, but speakers will be allotted 30 minutes to prepare their speech. Speakers should analyze the topic adequately, after having been given a choice of three different topics, they are to choose one and then prepare to present.

### International Extemporaneous (I.X.) or (F.X.)

Everything deals with International issues.



There is a (7) minutes maximum for the student to speak, but speakers will be allotted 30 minutes to prepare their speech. Speakers should analyze the topic adequately, after having been given a choice of three different topics, they are to choose one and then prepare to present.

### Impromptu (IMP)

A speech presented on a randomly drawn choice of three words, quotations and current events with limited preparation.



**Round 1:** Concrete Nouns

**Round 2:** Quotation (“If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again”).

**Round 3:** Current Event (“Who will win the election this year?”)

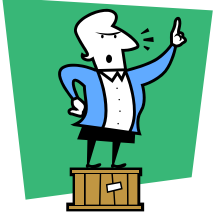
**Round 4:** Abstract concept or vocabulary term (ex: Blue Crayon or Antidisestablishmentarianism).

Each student is given a (5) minute maximum speaking time; with (2) minutes, in round, preparation time prior to that. No notes may be used during the speech.



## Debate events

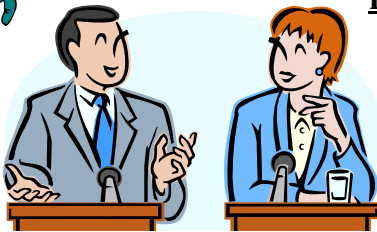
There are five different styles of debate; although at East we only participate in four of these styles, the four that are mentioned here. Should there be interest in the fourth the style will be taught.



**Parliamentary Debate:** Which is often shortened as "parli," is a debate format in which tournament officials assign a new topic for every round. After the announcement of the topic, the two teams have a limited preparation time, usually (20) twenty minutes, during which to write out their respective cases for the side they were assigned; either Government (Affirmative) or Opposition (negative).



**Lincoln - Douglas Debate:** commonly abbreviated as LD Debate, or simply LD; is sometimes also called "Value debate," because it traditionally places a heavy emphasis on logic, ethical values, and philosophy. It is a one-on-one competition. The Lincoln-Douglas Debate format is named for the Lincoln Douglas debates between Abe Lincoln and Douglas Adams; their debates were centered around slavery and the morals, values, and logic behind such a difficult subject.



**Public Forum Debate:** Public forum debate can be compared to a nationally-televised debate, such as "Crossfire" in which the debaters argue a topic of national importance in terms that a "common" person would understand. The debate in public forum is conducted by teams of two people alternating speeches for their side. There is little focus on extreme speed or arcane debate jargon or argumentation theory; instead, successful public forum debaters must make persuasive and

logical arguments in a manner that is accessible to a wide variety of audiences. Because of its strong relevance to the real-world and ability to develop life skills, public forum debate has exploded in popularity since its introduction into high school debate by the

**Congress:** In Student Congress, high school students emulate Congress by debating bills and resolutions. Before the event, each school submits 'legislation' to each tournament. After the legislation has been compiled, it is given to each participating team, which then attempts to research as much of the material as possible, with the goal of being able to speak on both sides of every bill.



**PLEASE NOTE:**

**The following pages are examples of district forms. Please use the forms approved by your district. These are intended to serve as examples so that you, as the coach, know what to include in your student handbook.**

**OTHER FORMS TO CONSIDER:**

- Zero Tolerance Behavior Contract**
- Tournament Schedule**
- Field Trip Permission Slips**

## SAMPLE PARENT LETTER

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to welcome your student to the \_\_\_\_\_ Speech and Debate team!! Forensics, otherwise known as competitive speech, is an excellent co-curricular activity. Students who participate in the events are challenged to think, research, organize and perform. Beyond just the basic educational skills students learn to develop self-confidence, poise, fluent thought and the art of articulating that thought; not to mention that they have a ton of fun! The Clovis East Speech and Debate team offers a wide range of interests from three types of debate, student congress, and twelve different individual speech events. We attend more than a dozen local league tournaments and three to four invitational tournaments throughout the state. In addition we are a member of the National Forensics League, an academic honor society recognized by colleges and universities across the nation; membership into that organization is graciously paid by our school.

Second, let's talk about the role that you play; it's not just about the student! There is a level of parent involvement as well. Yep, you got it .... We need you! In addition to their responsibility to class work and performance, **students are required to provide a judge** for the tournaments at which they compete **and two, for the tournaments that we host**. That's you! ☺ Usually judges are the student's parent, but older siblings (two years beyond high school age) and teachers, other friends, relatives or complete strangers often fill in on their behalf! The tournaments that we are **hosting, this fall, are September 25<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please place this on your calendar in advance and prepare to be there for a rather large block of time. Judging times vary; we typically ask that you **judge three rounds per tournament**. As per the time, that means judging **from either 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** We do approximate the time. We also supply you with food all day, so as to provide an incentive! ☺

Although some parents find judging intimidating the first time, I think that you'll enjoy the experience. However, to ease your mind we also will be having a judging workshop on **September 23<sup>rd</sup> and/or October 7<sup>th</sup> (speech and debate judging)** to better acquaint you to the workings of Forensics. Just know that prior to the start of each and every tournament they give you both audible and written instructions to refresh you before the round. **Workshops will be from 6 p.m. -7 p.m. in room \_\_\_\_\_.**

There is a rather high demand for judges; in fact, it should be known that if there are not enough judges then students and possibly whole teams, will be dropped from the tournament. **I do hope that by having the schedule in advance it will make it easier for you to plan and arrange time for the team – we really do need you!** When you have decided which tournaments you would like to judge, please let me know. I have attached a copy of the leagues schedule for the 2010-2011 competitive year; invitational tournaments are not required, and are subject to change as preparation and funding are variables. You may sign up at the workshops or email me, call me or send a note with your student ... whatever is easiest for you! ☺

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions at \_\_\_\_\_ or email me at \_\_\_\_\_. I have set up rules and policies for the team based on my experiences as a coach and as a previous high school and college competitor; I would be happy to explain my rationale should you have any concerns and/or comments.

We have a great team this year, and I am really looking forward to working with you and your student!

Sincerely,

Speech and Debate Coach

**Speech and Debate  
Tournament Registration Permission Form**

In an effort to reduce the amount of money spent on drop fees, parent permission is required before students will be registered for a tournament. By signing this form, you are acknowledging the following:

- Tournaments are not required as a part of the course and will not affect your student's grade.
- Students must meet behavioral, academic and tournament criteria to be eligible to register for a tournament.
- If the student drops after the drop deadline established by the coach or is a no-show to a round, the student must refund the team the costs that were incurred as a result of this registration.

Permission:

I give my permission for my student to register for the following tournament. I understand that if my student drops from the tournament after the drop deadline established by the coach or is a no-show to a round, the student must refund the team the costs that were incurred as a result of this registration.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournament: \_\_\_\_\_

Events to be Registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Deadline: \_\_\_\_\_

Drop Deadline: \_\_\_\_\_

Drop Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:- \_\_\_\_\_

**Speech and Debate  
Facebook and Website Photo Release**

I authorize the \_\_\_\_\_ High School Speech and Debate Team to publish the photographs and/or video taken of my child and the use of his/her name for use in printed publications, videos, and on the team website/Facebook Page.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Speech and Debate  
Parent/Student Contact Form and Contract**

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents' Names:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student's Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents' Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Do I have permission to text message your child with Speech and Debate related information?**

**Please initial one:**    YES \_\_\_\_\_    NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Do I have permission to add your student to the Speech and Debate Facebook Page?**

**Please initial one:**    YES \_\_\_\_\_    NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Contact Person In Case of Emergency:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_    **Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are there any medical conditions that the coach needs to be aware of? Please be sure to include any medications your child takes while at tournaments and what they are for:**

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**By signing this form, you are agreeing to abide by the policies outlined in the Student Handbook.**

**Parent's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Non-District Athletics Transportation Form

GRADE:

(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ arranges transportation for athletes to league contests, held Monday through Friday, only. Pre-season contests, tournaments, Saturday games and practices held off campus are the responsibility of the athlete. In the case of an emergency, the coach must receive a written request twenty-four hours prior to the contest to allow an athlete to use alternate transportation.

**PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OR MORE OF THE OPTIONS LISTED BELOW FOR YOUR STUDENT. PARENT SIGNATURE REQUIRED NEXT TO EACH OPTION THAT APPLIES TO THE ABOVE- NAMED STUDENT.**

STUDENT NAME:

TRANSPORTATION OPTION	PARENT SIGNATURE
Mother may transport student.	
Father may transport student.	
My son/daughter may drive to district related athletic events.	
My son/daughter may drive other district students to SCHOOL related athletic events.	
Another district student may drive my son/daughter to SCHOOL related athletic events.	
My son/daughter may be driven by a district staff member/parent/coach to SCHOOL related athletic events	

I hereby expressly waive and release any and all rights or claims of any nature, whatsoever, I may have against the \_\_\_\_\_ School District, the Board of Trustees of the \_\_\_\_\_ School District, and its members and employees, arising out of, in connection with, or resulting from any of the above-mentioned activities

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

# EMERGENCY FORM

The following information is necessary for the Student Health Record.

Please complete this form, **sign** and **return** to your school annually. This is not a "change of residency" form.

**\*If you have changed your residence, please complete and submit a "Verification of Residency Form"** available at your student's school registrar's office.

\_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT: Last Name First Name** Initial Date of Birth Month/Day/ Year Student Identification

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

Where the **Student Resides Currently** Apartment # City Zip Code School Grade

**Please check which Parent/Guardian should be contacted first:**

**FATHER** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Father's Name (Please indicate: Father/Guardian/Tutor)**  
\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone # Cell #  
\_\_\_\_\_ Place of Employment /Department Work Phone #  
\_\_\_\_\_ Father's E-mail Address

**MOTHER** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mother's Name (Please indicate: Mother/Guardian/Tutor)**  
\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone # Cell #  
\_\_\_\_\_ Place of Employment /Department Work Phone #  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mother's E-mail Address

Father's Current Address **Is This New Address?** No  **\*Yes**  Mother's Current Address **Is This a New Address?** No  **\*Yes**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address (If different than above)

Father's Years of Education: \_\_\_\_\_ Language \_\_\_\_\_ # of years

\_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address (If different than above)

Mother's Years of Education: \_\_\_\_\_ Language \_\_\_\_\_ # of years

**Father** needs interpreter for phone calls and meetings: NO  YES  **Mother** needs interpreter for phone calls and meetings: NO  YES

Name of Student's Physician/Clinic:

**I give my consent** for school personnel to communicate with my son/daughter's physician NO  **YES**

\_\_\_\_\_ Address Phone # Physician/Clinic

Name

Does the student take continuing medication: NO  YES

Will it be necessary to take medication at school? NO  YES

**If student requires administration of medication during school hours**, parent must **complete** and deliver to the school's Health Office the "**Authorization for Administration of Medication**" form **signed by parent and physician**. The form is available at: <http://www.sduhsd.net/downloads/>

**EMERGENCY: In an emergency, I give my consent: For family physician, EMT and/or hospital to provide emergency treatment to my son/daughter:** NO  **YES**  Student has medical insurance? NO  YES  Medical insurance in:

Father's name  Mother's name

\_\_\_\_\_ Medical Insurance Carrier Policy Number / Group Insurance Contact Number/s

\_\_\_\_\_ **Signature of Father/Guardian** Date \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature of Mother/Guardian** Date \_\_\_\_\_

Revision 3-09