



**Seattle University Summer
Middle School Public Forum Debate Tournament
SATURDAY May 20, 2023**

Version 1.2

We welcome you to a debate tournament hosted by Seattle University featuring 4 rounds of **MIDDLE SCHOOL PUBLIC FORUM** debate with two elimination debates.

Our Saturday Tournament is Online (Zoom) ONLY.

*For other kinds of debate and speaking events and In Person option:
Choose our Sunday, May 21 Tournament.*

*Notice: All participants are subject to the participation waiver form posted on
forensictournament.net and must sign this waiver.*

Support Each Other Positively and Inclusively

At all times, treat each other with courtesy and respect. Every person. Every room. We want a fun, positive, and educational environment.

You MUST have a computer with wifi and webcam during the tournament.

All postings and announcements will happen on Zoom.
Be sure to update your Zoom software. It should be 5.13.11 or higher.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBATE

1. Middle School PUBLIC FORUM TOPIC

- **Resolved: The United States Federal Government should ban the collection of personal data through biometric recognition technology.**

2. Debate Speaking Times

When the rooms get posted in Zoom, then debaters go to their debates and begin immediately.

Beginning of Debate: Debaters are required to share in Zoom chat their google drive/dropbox/one drive for sharing evidence. Shared evidence may not be used in debates by the team receiving the evidence.

Each debater gives 2 speeches and engages in 1 crossfire plus the grand crossfire.

- 1 Pro Constructive: 4 minutes, present pro case
- 1 Con Constructive: 4 minutes, present con case
- *Crossfire (questions) 3 minutes between 1 Pro and 1 Con*
- 2 Pro Rebuttal: 4 minutes, refute con case
- 2 Con Rebuttal: 4 minutes, refute pro case
- *Crossfire (questions) 3 minutes between 2 Pro and 2 Con*
- 1 Pro Summary: 3 minutes, defend pro case and/or address key points of clash
- 1 Con Summary: 3 minutes, defend pro case and/or address key points of clash
- *Grand Crossfire (questions) 3 minutes among all debaters*
- 2 Pro Final Focus: 3 minutes, give reasons to vote for pro
- 2 Con Final Focus: 3 minutes, give reasons to vote for con

4 min. prep. during the debate for each team to use as they choose before their speeches or before crossfire. No prep time prior to the debate.

3. Debating Rules—OUR RULES ARE UNIQUE TO OUR TOURNAMENT

- **Debaters must be 10-14 years of age or receive Jim Hanson's permission to debate in this tournament.**
- Pro teams of two debaters (1Pro debater and 2Pro debater) defend the topic. Con teams of two debaters (1Con debater and 2Con debater) reject the topic.
- Con teams cannot run counterplans; they must discuss the topic/the current policies.
- **Speaker Duties for this tournament:**
 - 1Case Speeches: Present Case. Do not respond to opponent's case in this speech except minimally.
 - 2Rebuttal Speeches: Respond to your Opponent's Case. Do not respond to responses to your case except minimally.
 - 1Summary Speeches: Defend Your Case/Crystalize. Do not respond to your opponent's case except minimally.
 - 2FinalFocus Speeches: Address Key Arguments and Weigh.
- **WE DO NOT WANT PF DEBATERS SPREADING TO HIT BOTH CASES IN THEIR SPEECHES—SO DO NOT DO THAT. ONLY THE FINAL FOCUS DIRECTLY ADDRESSES BOTH CASES IN THEIR SPEECH.**
- **Debaters use prepared materials in their debates. Debaters may/should use printed materials and/or laptops during the debate.**
- You may also access the internet including during the debate (but you CANNOT communicate with any person including a coach or parent unless it is an emergency).
- No POIs, No heckling. No Coin tosses.
- Debaters may speak to teammates who are speaking BRIEFLY AND RARELY and can pass notes or text messages/chat. Remember, interrupting your debate partner can hurt their debating—do it at most once or twice during an entire speech and only in urgent situations.
- Use your own flow paper.
- Coaching help prior to the debate is fine but the debate starts on time. No coaching during the debate.

Parents

We welcome parents supporting their children's growth as speakers! We ask that you abide by our tournament rules:

- You should watch by viewing your child's computer screen or if in person, quietly in the back of the room. If using your child's computer doesn't work for you—you can log in to Zoom with another computer. We ask that you keep your sound and video turned off.
- No video recording, no photographs, no screen shots during debates.
- Please, no talking with students from other schools.
- No coaching your kids nor any students during prep time nor during debates. Same goes for speaking events.
- You should remain neutral and quiet during the debate (no sound, no video). You may applaud for all competitors after the final debate speech or after each speaker in a speech event.
- We encourage you to be supportive of your speaker/debater at all times including especially after the round. Show how proud you are of your child.
- Complaint about a judge? Two things: 1) Remember not everyone agrees even if you feel really strongly your child should have won. 2) If a judge violated a rule and especially if they did not treat students with support and respect—please report it to your coach who can bring the issue to the attention of the tournament directors.

Judges

Thank you for serving as a judge. You are helping students grow and become better communicators.

- ALL Judges carefully read and follow the judging instructions given to you.
- At all times, make every effort to have an inclusive, equitable speaking/debating environment.

DEBATE JUDGES do the following at the end of the debate:

1. **ASAP, EMAIL just the winner and speaker points (do this by replying to the emailed ballot).**
2. **THEN, Give constructive feedback to debaters orally** with 1) which side you voted for and which arguments the teams presented that led you to that conclusion; 2) at least 1 good thing each debater did; 3) at least 1 thing each debater needs to improve on.
3. **THEN, after oral feedback, submit Reason for Decision and Comments using the Form:** again, with 1) at least 1 good thing each debater did; 2) at least 1 thing each debater needs to improve on.

Coaches

We want to make sure you and your team know what is going on—topics, pairings, etc.

- We will show Postings (in speech, event, competitor name(s), judge, and room) (in debate, who debates who, on what side, with what judge, and in what room) in Zoom. ALL POSTINGS ARE DONE IN ZOOM even for in-person participants.
- Please train your debaters to look for their names under Pro/Prop/Aff or Con/Opp/Neg—and then to follow across to their room number and judge name. Same for speakers to look for their names in their events and what room to go to.
- Have a judge no show before the tournament starts? Contact Jim Hanson at jim@climbthemountain.us as soon as possible and provide a replacement judge.

Team and Judge Registration--Due MONDAY MAY 15.

BY FRIDAY MAY 12, If you are going to need to hire judges, email Jim Hanson on this date.

BY MONDAY MAY 15: Complete the Online Registration at forensictournament.net

BY WEDNESDAY MAY 17, Coaches get parent signed legal waiver that is posted on forensictournament.net for each student and upload to the shared [Google Drive](#).

Important: Students and Judges need to have their first names as entered for the tournament showing in Zoom. Tell your students and judges to include their name in Zoom—if they want extra verbiage beyond the name—type that in AFTER their first name (example “Suzi R Peace Symbol”).

Paying Fees

Judging Needs

You need 1 debate judge for your first team; You need 1 debate judge for additional increments of 1 or 2 teams. Example: 6 teams need 4 debate judges.

WE HAVE HIRED JUDGES AVAILABLE IF YOU GIVE JIM HANSON ONE WEEK NOTICE. Contact Jim Hanson at least one week before the tournament to see how many judges are available.

Fees

School Fee: \$30.00

Fee Per Debater: \$10.00.

Fee for each _debate team_ needing a judge (not for each judge): \$70.00

If a judge no-shows, we add \$35.00 to your fees per round missed.

Late Registration subject to 25% fee per day late and is allowed only if Jim Hanson grants permission to do so.

If a judge does not fill out online comments, we add \$15.00 for each round with no online comments.

Pay Fees

Jim Hanson will provide an invoice. You will be able to pay via credit card or check. Payment is made to Seattle University.

Awards

Teams that advance to our finals rounds and also any teams with 4-0 and 3-1 records.

Debaters with speaker points in the top approximate 20% win a speaker award.

We will also provide awards for top debaters from schools that did not receive one of the above awards.

TOURN. SCHEDULE SAT. MAY 20, 2023 (All times Pacific Coast Time)

DEBATERS-DEBATE JUDGES

9:20am Debaters and Judges check-in with Coaches in their School Room

Go to the Zoom Meeting—Look for THE POSTING SHOWING BREAKOUT ROOMS FOR EACH SCHOOL. Go to that room to check-in with your coach.

Students wait for postings.

By 9:30am, COACHES Report Missing Judges, Debate Teams

9:40am Debaters/Judges gather in the Zoom Main Room—we start!

9:40 Debate 1 (ballots due by 11:00am)

11:20 Debate 2 (ballots due by 12:40pm)

12:50 Lunch Break

1:20 Debate 3 (ballots due by 2:40pm)

2:50 Debate 4 (ballots due by 4:10pm)

4:30 Awards (expect to finish by 4:50pm)

4:50 Debate Semis (Finish by 6:10pm)

6:20 Debate Finals (Finish by 8:00pm)