



Dear Administrators, Coaches, Team Captains and Debaters,

Webber's Debate Academy is pleased to invite you to our online **World Schools Debate Tournament on March 1st – 3rd, 2024**. We will be offering a Middle School Division (10-13 y.o) and a High School Division (14-19 y.o.), which will be run as two separate divisions THROUGHOUT the tournament.

No debater over 13 years of age should be on a middle school team regardless of how they are classified in their school.

No debater entered in the high school division should be attending or have attended a tertiary educational institution (university or jr. college).

Pedagogical Statement:

It is our goal to provide middle school debaters and high school debaters with online debate competitions that has motions specifically written for their level, the opportunity to compete against debaters from their same age group, with judges who are trained to give feedback that provides the best opportunity for growth in the age group for which they are judging.

World Schools Debate Format:

The debates will be in the World Schools Debate format using the WSDC rules and practices to conduct the rounds. We will allow each team to enter 3 to 5 debaters per team and we are planning to **cap the tournament at 40 teams in each division** so there are enough teams for it to be a rich and competitive learning experience but small enough to be manageable and ensure quality judging.

[Registration Link for Tournament](https://forensictournament.net/)

Platforms:

The tournament will be hosted entirely on <https://forensictournament.net/>

Speech Times:

The speeches in the debate will be 8-minute constructive speeches with 4-minute reply speeches in the high school division and 6 minute constructive speeches with 3-minute reply speeches in the middle school division. Both divisions will allow points of information.

Judging Requirements:

Experienced judges will receive a briefing on the best practices for giving feedback to each of the age groups which they will be judging and will be expected to follow these guidelines.



Participating institutions must provide 1 judge for every 1 or 2 teams they are entering. We ask that you only provide adult (beyond high school), experienced judges who have experience judging world schools' debate. **We will provide a briefing session for the judges and a judge test that they MUST attend. If the judge does not attend these sessions then they will be withdrawn from the tournament and the team(s) must pay the judging fee before they can compete.** We reserve the right to remove any judge who does not appear to meet the standard and will bill the school/team if their judge is withdrawn from judging.

We will not be using conferral judging in rounds where there is more than one judge.

There will be 4 preliminary rounds breaking to Octafinals. We reserve the right to break to quarterfinals if there are 8 or less teams with a 3-1 win/loss record in either division.

All teams must be accompanied by an adult who will be available during the tournament at all times. If there is an issue and the adult Coach or Sponsor cannot be contacted, the team will forfeit the round or be disqualified (if warranted).

We will accept entries from schools and academies. Independent teams will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Entry and Judging Fees:

The cost per team will be US\$ 15 for each debater entered.

Deadline for Team Entries: February 14, 2024 – schools will be charged for debaters entered at the end of this day.

Deadline for entry fee payment: February 21st, 2024 – Teams will be dropped if not paid by this date.

Deadline for Receiving Judge Information: February 21st, 2024 – If we do not receive your judge information by this time, you will be charged a US\$60 judge's fee **for each uncovered team.**

Motions:

3 prepared motions for each division will be released on February 1st, 2024 along with topic areas for each impromptu round.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE: (All times are US time zones)

TIME ZONES:	PST	CST	ET
Friday, March 1st			
Rnd 1 – Prep Time	1:30 pm	3:30 pm	4:30 pm
Rnd 1 - Impromptu	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	5:00 pm
Rnd 2 - Prepared	5:00 pm	7:00 pm	8:00 pm
Saturday, March 2nd			
Rnd 3 – Prep Time	7:30 am	9:30 am	10:30 am
Rnd 3 - Impromptu	8:00 am	10:00 am	11:00 am
Rnd 4 - Prepared	10:00 am	12:00 pm	1:00 pm
ANNOUNCEMENTS	1:00 pm	3:00 pm	4:00 pm
Octas Prep Time	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	5:00 pm
Octafinals	2:30 pm	4:30 pm	5:30 pm
Quarters Prep Time	5:00 pm	7:00 pm	8:00 pm
Quarterfinals	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	8:30 pm
Sunday, March 3rd			
Semis Prep Time	7:30 am	9:30 am	10:30 am
Semifinals	8:00 am	10:00 am	11:00 am
Finals	10:00 am	12:00 pm	1:00 pm