

November 4, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

The Vanderbilt University Debate Team, the Department of Communication Studies, and Dialogue Vanderbilt invite you and your teams to the 7th Annual Vanderbilt British Parliamentary Debate Tournament to be held January 30th-February 1st, 2026. All schools are welcome.

The CA team for the tournament will be headed by Isabel Birney (Vermont) and Will Reid (Ball State).

Will Silberman has graciously agreed to run the tab room.

The tournament will have an Open division of BP debate. If numbers warrant, we will have separate elimination rounds and speaker awards for Novice and English-as-a-Second-Language speakers. Entries will be due by 5PM Central on January 23rd, 2026. Entries will be done through forensicstournament.net. We will post to the BP in North America page on Facebook when we are ready to accept entries.

We will provide breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Snacks will also be provided throughout the tournament. As part of the entry deadline, please provide any and all dietary requirements no later than January 23rd.

We have secured a rate of \$139 a night at the Holiday Inn Nashville-Vanderbilt (link for reservations below). Rate may display differently initially but should be correct when you select rooms. This is a good rate for the Vanderbilt area and I encourage you to make reservations there. The deadline to make reservations in the room block is January 14, 2026. This hotel is within walking distance (10-15 minutes) of competition rooms, close to several good places to eat, and a quick Uber/Lyft ride away from most of Nashville.

We look forward to seeing you all January 30th-February 1st in Nashville.

Sincerely,

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TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Entries: We will be using Forensics Tournament for entries:

<https://forensicstournament.net/vanderbilt/26> . Deadline is 5PM Central on January 23rd, 2026.

Divisions: Open BP. Please send novice (within first year of college debate) and ESL designations to gavin.p.gill@vanderbilt.edu before January 23rd at 5PM Central. If numbers warrant, we will have separate break rounds and speaker awards for those divisions.

JUDGES: We will use n-1 for determining judging commitment, except all teams are required to provide at least one judge at minimum. For example, if you have 1 team, you will need to provide 1 judge. If you have 2 teams, you will need to provide 1 judge. If you have 3 teams, you will need to provide 2 judges, etc. All judges are obligated 1 break round after their teams are eliminated. Institutions who register debaters without providing adequate judges will be required to convert a requisite number of debaters into judges.

AWARDS: All teams reaching elimination rounds will receive awards. In addition, speaker awards will be given to the top 10 speakers (in each division, if numbers warrant).

FEES: Entry fees of \$90 per person (including judges and observers) will be collected at registration. We will be able to accept cash, check, or credit card. These fees help cover the cost of four meals, snacks, trophies, and hiring judges. If these fees will prevent you from attending, please contact ML Sandoz (ml.sandoz@vanderbilt.edu) to discuss the possibility of fee reductions and waivers for your program.

DEADLINES: 1.) All teams must be entered on Forensics Tournament by January 23rd, 2026 at 5PM Central, 2.) All designations of novice and ESL must be sent to gavin.p.gill@vanderbilt.edu by 5PM Central on January 23rd, 2026, and 3.) All dietary restrictions or accommodation requests should be communicated to gavin.p.gill@vanderbilt.edu by January 23rd, 2026 at 5PM Central.

TRANSPORTATION: Nashville and Vanderbilt are easily accessible by I-24, I-40, and I-65. In addition, Nashville Airport (BNA) is serviced by most major airlines. You are likely to find the best rates and times through Southwest Airlines, as roughly 60% of all flights in and out of BNA are through them.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE to HOTEL: We recommend using Airport Express (615) 275-1180. Lyft/Uber are also readily available in Nashville.

RENTAL VEHICLES: As noted above, Lyft/Uber are readily available at all times of the day in Nashville. Additionally, the tournament hotel is within walking distance of

competition buildings/rooms. It is possible then to not rent a vehicle for this tournament. If you want one though, BNA has most major rental car company options.

TOURNAMENT HOTEL: We have reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Nashville-Vanderbilt from 1/30-2/1. This hotel is within walking distance of the tournament and dining establishments. It is also an Uber/Lyft ride away from the restaurants and night life of downtown Nashville. The room rate is \$139 a night and must be booked by 1/14/2026. Rooms can be booked here: [VU Debate](#). If you would prefer to call: 615-327-4707 and identify yourself as participants in the VU BP Debate Tournament.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Friday, January 30

8PM-10PM: Registration and Coaches Reception at the Holiday Inn Nashville-Vanderbilt Hotel

Saturday, January 31

8:45am: Sign-in and Breakfast (Students will be in lobby of hotel at 8:30am to walk you to competition rooms)

9:15: Judge and Debater Briefing

9:45: Round 1 Motion

11:45: Round 2 Motion

1:45: Lunch

2:30: Round 3 Motion

4:30: Round 4 Motion

Sunday, February 1

9am: Sign-in and Breakfast

9:30: Round 5 Motion

11:30: Round 6 Motion

1:15: Lunch, Breaks, and Awards

2PM (or earlier if we are able): Quarters, Novice (semis or finals), ESL (semis or finals)

TBD (as early as possible after quarters): Semis for Open BP (Finals if necessary in other break-out divisions)

TBD (as early as possible after semi's): Open BP Finals