



Mizzou Debate and Forensics

Truman School of Government and Public Affairs
University of Missouri

Dear Forensic Colleagues,

On behalf of Mizzou Debate and Forensics, the premier collegiate competitive speech and debate program at the University of Missouri, I am excited to invite you to the first-ever annual Columns Classic, **hosted on Mizzou's campus** in Columbia, MO **November 14–15**. Due to the unique restrictions our campus has on building, space, and room reservations, this tournament will have to operate on a Saturday-Sunday schedule. We will be doing everything in our power to strike a balance between a healthy and compact competition schedule so that hopefully attending schools can leave CoMO in enough time to return to their respective campuses Sunday night.

We plan to offer all 11 AFA individual events and interviewing alongside Open, Junior Varsity, and Novice divisions of individual IPDA Debate. Students may compete in both debate and multiple individual events, although some restrictions on cross-entry are in place to support a tournament which operates on-schedule and adapts to various time/spacing constraints. Each student may compete in IPDA and up to three individual events in each conflict pattern:

Pattern A (Extemp, After Dinner Speaking, Persuasive, Duo, Prog Oral Interp, and Prose)
Pattern B (Impromptu, Comm Analysis, Info, Dramatic Interp, Poetry, and Interviewing)

We strive to provide a welcoming and safe environment for students, coaches, and community members in attendance. If you believe there are special circumstances which I, as the TD or we, as the host team should be aware of, do not hesitate to reach out. If judges need to be struck from specific schools or students, we need to know by the change/drop deadline.

Speech and debate at Mizzou has fluctuated greatly over the years, from booming in the 1960s to functionally nonexistent by 2017. This time around, it operates as entirely student-operated and almost entirely funded via fundraising and tournament hosting. My mission is to build a program which will sustain beyond my time as an undergraduate student, building a reputation and instilling the knowledge necessary in my peers to perpetuate the successful team we currently are. A cornerstone of many lasting programs is hosting an annual competition for other schools to attend, increasing the presence of programs in the community while generating revenue to be used for future travel and competition. With these things in mind, I'd like to extend the sincerest of thank-you's to all of the members of the forensics community who have and continue to support programs like ours, and we deeply appreciate your attendance to the Columns Classic.

Best wishes,

Dustin Wallace

President, Mizzou Debate and Forensics
Tournament Director, Columns Classic

E: mutalkingtigers@gmail.com

C: (816) 588-3441

Lodging and Food

Hotels — Columbia is home to a number of lodging options. Close to campus are Hampton Inn and Suites Columbia (at the University of Missouri), Stoney Creek Hotel, Best Western Plus, Wingate by Wyndham, The Broadway, and the Tiger Hotel; the latter two are a reasonable walking distance to campus, though consequently more expensive.

On-Campus Food — The Mizzou Market (a small convenience store) will be open in the afternoons and early evenings, as will our campus Panera and Panda Express, all of which are located in the Student Center, less than 5 minutes from any tournament building. Our campus Starbucks, located in Memorial Union (roughly a 3-7 minute walk depending on which tournament building you are located in) will be open from morning to early afternoon throughout the tournament.

Off-Campus Food — If students venture roughly 10 minutes from our tournament buildings, they will find Domino's, Subway, Insomnia Cookies, Chipotle, Qdoba, Shakespeare's Pizza, The Heidelberg, Las Margaritas, and Starbucks. Slightly further into downtown (still walkable), they will find Lakota, Shortwave, La Calle Ocho, Goldie's Bagels, DP Dough, U Knead Sweets, Sparky's Homemade Ice Cream, Jimmy John's, Pickleman's, Hot Box Cookies, Bangkok Gardens, and Birdie's Deli.

Competition

Entries — As a student-operated program, competitive opportunities can be limited. As such, a number of Mizzou first-year competitors may be entered into the competition pool at the discretion of the tournament director. In the unlikely event that there is an individual event with too few entries to proceed regularly or in which the overwhelming majority of the entries come from one school, Mizzou competitors of all experience levels may be entered to ensure diversity of competition and to justify a final round. Mizzou entries will not count toward any sweepstakes awards under any circumstances. Competitors may be entered via the tournament's Forensicstournament.net page at <https://forensicstournament.net/columnsclassic/26>. Entries will be received until Friday, November 6 at 5:00PM CT, though we ask that schools submit their entries as soon as possible. Changes to your entry and drops will be received through Monday, November 9 at 8:00PM CT.

Events — We will be offering individual IPDA and a full slate of the standard 11 individual events plus interviewing.

IPDA prep regulations — Strike time and walk time are included in the 30 minute preparation window. Competitors must strike for topics on their own, without assistance from coaches or teammates. Coaches and teammates may help during the remainder of the 30 minute preparation window after a topic has been selected.

Internet Access — Keeping with current standards, internet access is permitted during extemp and IPDA prep. Wifi is available through the University's guest network, though stable or sustained connection to the network is not guaranteed. We recommend teams have a backup option.

Network: TigerWiFi-Guest
Password: TrumanTiger

Artificial Intelligence — While AI often cannot be avoided with new search engine AI features such as the Google AI summary, consulting AI models (including but not limited to ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, etc.) is strictly prohibited. In the interest of promoting the intellectual independence and critical thinking skills Mizzou Debate and Forensics strives to instill within its students, competitors caught using such generative AI models during preparation for events like IPDA and Extemp will be disqualified.

IPDA Divisions — The Columns Classic will offer 3 divisions of IPDA: Novice, Junior Varsity (JV), and Open. Novice is defined as any competitor in their first semester of collegiate competition who has competed in 8 or fewer debate tournaments at any level in any combination (high school or college, public forum, NDT, LD, congressional debate, IPDA, etc.). Junior Varsity is defined as any competitor who has competed in 7 or fewer tournaments after exhausting their novice eligibility (either 7 tournaments beyond their first semester of collegiate competition or first semester competitors who have competed in more than 8 but fewer than 16 collegiate tournaments). The Open division will be available to any undergraduate. We will make every effort to avoid collapsing divisions.

IPDA Brackets — Preliminary rounds 1 and 2 will be assigned randomly, rounds 3 and 5 will be power-matched (high-high) and round 4 will be power-protected (high-low). Brackets will be broken to avoid competitors from the same team facing each other in preliminary rounds if at all possible. Brackets will not be broken in elimination rounds. Coaches will be required to choose which competitor will advance should two competitors from the same team be slated to face one another in an elimination round.

IPDA Elimination Rounds — We will break to an appropriate elimination round based on the size of the pool. We anticipate breaking to a quarterfinal in all divisions, but have built time into the schedule to run an octofinal if numbers warrant. If a division has an abnormally low number of entries or if the overwhelming majority of entries are from one team, we reserve the right to adjust the number of elimination rounds accordingly.

Coaches Review — We will be taking a page from the book of our friends down South and providing a coaches review period. Coaches review will be open immediately following tabulation of preliminary rounds. We require that coaches raise any issue within one (1) hour of the coaches review period opening so we can post the first elimination round as soon as possible and let everyone know what times their teams need to arrive in the morning.

Judging

Judging Obligations — *All* debate judges are obligated through the first elimination round of debate, regardless of if their teams broke, and one round following the elimination of their last competitor in any division. All IE judges are obligated for finals of both pattern A&B. Judges must be available to fulfill this entire obligation to count as a full time judge when calculating uncovered fees. One judge covers 4 IPDA entries or 8 IE entries.

Host-Provided Judges — Mizzou Debate and Forensics has exactly 1 alumni and little community-wide recognition, and, as such, no robust pool to recruit judges from. Additionally, the University of Missouri and broader Columbia often host other events this weekend, further limiting availability. Most host schools include in their invite that they'd rather have your judges than your money; these circumstances prove this statement to be more true than ever before for the Columns Classic. As a last resort, our 1 alumni and other distance individuals may hybrid judge.

Judge Qualifications — Any adult, including active collegiate team members, may judge IPDA, regardless of previous debate experience or education level attained. While AFA regulations generally ask that IE judges have received bachelor's degrees, there is some flexibility there, and if needed please reach out to us.

Judge Striking — If any of your competitors/judges need to be struck from being judged by/judging a certain individual for any non-competitive reason, please email mutalkingtigers@gmail.com no later than Thursday, November 12 with a brief explanation (i.e. a competitor and judge are from different schools but are related, a judge in the pool is a former coach of another team in attendance, etc.). Students can also email us directly at mutalkingtigers@gmail.com and offer whatever extent of explanation they feel comfortable sharing; if the explanation they feel comfortable sharing is nothing beyond the request, that is entirely ok. This also applies if any of your students need to be struck from competing against someone else in the pool.

Tournament Operations

Communication — All day-of updates will be shared through the Columns Classic GroupMe. The link to said GroupMe will be sent out via email in the days leading up to the tournament. Please ensure any sensitive or private information is not shared in the chat. While students may ask questions, any information specific to their round that is not clarifying (i.e. "the door is locked" vs "my opponent fabricated evidence") will be deleted. Please handle any complaints through the appropriate channels.

Awards — The following students will receive awards:

- All elimination round participants in each division of IPDA (with the caveat that an unexpectedly large pool may result in some students receiving certificates or leftover awards).

- The top 6 speakers in each division of IPDA.

- All finalists in individual events.

The following teams will receive sweepstakes awards:

- The top 3 teams in debate sweepstakes.

- The top 3 teams in individual event sweepstakes.

- The top 3 teams in overall sweepstakes.

Open-Door Policy — Mizzou Debate and Forensics understands that forensics performances are unique forums for students to tell their stories. At their best, they emotionally impact audiences and move them to empathy, understanding of new perspectives, and action. The power to emotionally impact an audience comes with the

concomitant responsibility to serve our peers to the best of our abilities. In keeping with current best practices in forensics, we encourage competitors to use trigger warnings whenever necessary, but since it is impossible for competitors to concretely determine how anyone will be impacted, we are supporting an open door policy. Competitors may choose to leave any individual event performance room without question or penalty, though we ask that they do so discreetly if a performance is taking place to avoid interrupting other students.

Disability Accommodations — If any of your competitors require reasonable ADA accommodations, please email us anything we need to know to ensure they have the best and most accommodating experience possible.

Ethics Challenges — If a competitor raises an ethics challenge in-round (misconduct, fabrication of evidence, etc.), judges must note this on their ballot, note if it changed their decision, and visit the tab room before casting their ballot. If at any point after a round a competitor would like to raise an ethics challenge for in-round ethics violations, we ask that their coach email mutalkingtigers@gmail.com with all details possible within 30 minutes of the round concluding. The tournament director may ask for more information from either student by contacting their coach. Tournament Director decisions are final.

Harassment and Discrimination Statement — Mizzou Debate and Forensics recognizes that the excellence we strive to curate within our forensics community is only possible when each member of that community exercises mutual respect. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination, whether written or oral, based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, or observers. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises.

Fees

Student-Run Programs — As a student-operated program, we understand the troubles of funding more than anyone. If your team is student-run and is in financial need, please reach out to us for a discussion regarding a reduction in fees.

Payment Avenues — We are extremely flexible in terms of the avenue you use to pay fees. We prefer check, Zelle, or cash, but can also take a credit card if that is easier for your institution.

Fee Amounts — We reserve the right to charge nuisance fees as we see fit for cases including but not limited to judges dropped at registration and dropped entries after the drop/change deadline. Nuisance fees are assessed in addition to original fees owed for the entry where applicable. Fees can be calculated using the following table:

_____	IPDA entries	× \$30	= _____
_____	IE entries	× \$10	= _____
_____	uncovered IPDA entries	× \$70	= _____
_____	uncovered IE entries	× \$20	= _____
_____	judges dropped day of	× \$150	= _____
_____	entry adds/drops after deadline	× \$20	= _____
Total owed:			_____

Schedule

Saturday

08:00a	Registration/Check-in
08:30a–10:00a	IPDA Prelim Round 1 (Flight A strike at 8:30)
10:15a–11:45a	IPDA Prelim Round 2 (Flight A strike at 10:15)
12:00p–01:30p	IPDA Prelim Round 3 (Flight A strike at 12:00)
01:30p	Extemp Draw
01:45p–03:15p	IE Round 1-Pattern A
03:15p–04:45p	IPDA Prelim Round 4 (Flight A strike at 3:15)
04:45p–06:15p	IE Round 1-Pattern B
06:15p–07:45p	IPDA Prelim Round 5 (Flight A strike at 6:15)

Saturday

08:00a–09:30a	IPDA Elim Round 1
09:30a–11:00a	IE Round 2-Pattern B
11:00a–12:00p	IPDA Elim Round 2
12:00p	Extemp Draw
12:15p–01:45p	IE Round 2-Pattern A
01:45p–03:00p	IE Finals-Pattern B
03:00p	Extemp Draw
03:15p–04:30p	IE Finals-Pattern A
04:30p–05:30p	IPDA Elim Round 3
05:30p	Awards
	IPDA Elim Round 4 after awards if necessary