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Diablo Valley College Presents
The Bernacchi Invitational at DVC

Nov. 20th - 22nd, 2026

Dear colleagues and friends,

The Tony Bernacchi Invitational, hosted by the Diablo Valley College Vikings, extends a warm welcome to you for an exciting in-person forensics tournament set to take place from November 20, 21, 22 2026. This event promises top-tier competition and the chance to engage with a vibrant and inclusive community that spans the nation.

Named in honor of Tony Bernacchi, a beloved former coach at Diablo Valley College who touched the lives of countless students, this tournament pays tribute to his enduring legacy encouraging students not only to speak out but to listen deeply to ideas, beliefs, and concerns of others. Our tournament was previously called "The Thing" named after the assemblies of the Viking Age, where individuals gathered to express their voices. We hope that the Tony Bernacchi Invitational will continue to serve as a modern-day platform for public debate, personal advocacy, and fostering a sense of community. For the staff and students at DVC, Tony was a coach, a teammate, a friend, a mentor, and the most evident example of the kind of truly good person that forensics can produce. We couldn't be more excited to honor him from this year onward.

The tournament features a 2-day swing speech and will have separate debate competitions on each day. This gives our speech-focused competitors two separate opportunities for competition, while debate focused competitors will be able to compete in NPDA, IPDA, and LD; and competitors whose focus are a combination of speech and debate have the opportunity to do both (**competitors must choose between NPDA and IEs on Saturday, and between IPDA and IE's on Sunday**).

Our tournament opens with a full day of competition in LD on Friday, followed by awards. Saturday will be Day 1 of our speech swing as well as the NPDA portion of the competition, followed by a joint award ceremony. Finally, Sunday will be Day 2 of the speech swing as well as our competition day for IPDA, followed by our final award ceremony which will acknowledge awards earned that day as well as 2- day swing awards.

All Entries are due on 11/18/26 by 11:00 p.m:

Paul Villa
Co-Director of Forensics
Co-Tournament Director
Contact: pvilla@dvc.edu

Robert Hawkins
Co-Director of Forensics
Co-Tournament Director
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Friday Nov. 20th, 2026

LD Schedule

Registration	7:30 AM
Round 1	8:45 AM
Round 2	10:00 AM
Round 3	11:15 AM
Lunch	12:30 PM
Round 4	1:30 PM
Elim 1	2:45 PM
Elim 2	4:00 PM
Elim 3 (As Necessary)	5:15 PM
Awards	6:15 PM (ASAP)

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Saturday Nov 21st, 2026

IE Schedule		Parli Schedule	
Registration	7:00 AM	**Registration**	7:00 AM
Extemp Draw	8:30 AM	**Pairings**	7:50 AM
Pattern A1	8:45 AM	**Topic Round 1&2**	8:00 AM
Pattern B1	10:00 AM	**Round 1**	8:40 AM
Extemp Draw	11:15 AM	**Round 2**	9:35 AM
Pattern A2	11:30 AM	**Topic Round 3**	10:30 AM
Lunch	12:30 PM	**Lunch**	12:00 PM
Pattern B2	1:30 PM	**Topic Round 4**	12:45 PM
Extemp Draw Finals	3:15 PM	**Topic Elim 1**	2:15 PM
Pattern A Finals	3:30 PM	**Topic Elim 2**	3:45 PM
Pattern B Finals	4:45 PM	**Topic Elim 3**	5:15 PM
Awards	6:15 PM (ASAP)	**Awards**	6:15 PM (ASAP)

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Sunday Nov 22nd, 2026

IE Schedule		IPDA	
Registration	7:00 AM	**Registration**	7:00 AM
Extemp Draw	8:30 AM	**Round 1 - Strike**	8:30 AM
Pattern A1	8:45 AM	**Round 2 - Strike**	9:45 AM
Pattern B1	10:00 AM	**Round 3 - Strike**	11:00 AM
Extemp Draw	11:15 AM	**Lunch**	12:30 PM
Pattern A2	11:30 AM	**Round 4 - Strike**	1:30 PM
Lunch	12:30 PM	**Bronze - Strike**	3:00 PM
Pattern B2	1:30 PM	**Gold - Strike**	4:30 PM
Extemp Draw Finals	3:15 PM	**Awards**	6:00 PM
Pattern A Finals	3:30 PM		
Pattern B Finals	4:45 PM		
Awards	6:00 PM		

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Entries:

All entries in individual events & Debate entries will be on http://www.forensicstournament.net

Entry Constraints

1. **Competitors may enter up to three events in each pattern**, but be warned: the tournament will make **NO** special accommodations for double or triple entered students who are late to a round. If you miss the judge because you are double or tripled entered you will **NOT** be able to make it up.

2. Students may compete in two duos with two different partners.

Judging Coverage Constraints

1. One critic covers six IE slots, per pattern.

2. One critic covers two entries per debate event. Judges covering Parli or IPDA **MAY NOT** cover IEs as Debate and Speech run concurrently on Saturday and Sunday.

3. Due to limited ability to hire judges, each school is limited to no more than two uncovered entries in each format of debate.

Accommodations: We will provide continental breakfast and lunch both days of the swing. Please e-mail rhawkins@dvc.edu for food restrictions. We will certainly offer a vegetarian option.

Entries are due on 11/18/2026 at 11:00 p.m. You may access the invitation and entry system at forensicstournament.net.

Tournament Address: 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Fee Calculation: School Fee _____$25

Individual Events entries _____x $15.00
Uncovered slots of IE _____x $30.00
IPDA/LD entry _____x $35.00
NPDA _____ x 65
Uncovered NPDA _____ x 150
Uncovered IPDA/LD _____ x $75
Drops/changes at Registration _____x $20.00
I.E. No Shows _____ x $20.00 (Per Round) Subtotal

Payment: We will use Forensics Tournament to pay fees. Any checks should be made out to: Diablo Valley College Forensics Trust. If there are forms (e.g. tax or other) that need to be completed, these must be sent to rhawkins@dvc.edu *BEFORE* the tournament.

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WIFI:

The campus will have complimentary wifi. There is no password required.

FOOD OPTIONS:

There is also plenty of food within Walking Distance ~ 5 to 7 min/Driving Distance ~ 2 min:

Parking:

On Friday - You can park in lot 7 or lot 8, parking passes are available.

AWARDS

School Sweepstakes

1. **Overall Sweepstakes for 2 and 4 year colleges: Top three schools for each division** There will be two Sweepstakes Divisions: University and Community College. Awards will be given to the first, second, and third place schools in each division. Points are awarded as follows: A) Individual Events: First = 10 pts; Second = 8 pts; Third = 6 pts; Finalist = 3 pts. B) IPDA: Gold = 10 pts; Silver = 8 pts; Bronze = 6 pts; / LD: 1^{st} = 10, 2^{nd} = 8, 3^{rd}/4^{th} = 6^{th}, 5^{th}/6^{th} = 4

DVC is not eligible for school sweepstakes awards, but all its students may compete for all other awards.

Kevin Twohy IE Top Speaker Award

Kevin Twohy was a former coach at DVC who made a tremendous contribution to the Speech & Debate world. This award will be given to the speaker who accumulates the most ***OPEN*** division sweepstakes points for her/his school in speech. We value achievement in novice division, as reflected in our awarding sweepstakes points without distinction between divisions. However, we wish to recognize the highest accomplishment for individual excellence in the open division.

Danial Leahy Debate Top Speaker Award

Danial Leahy was a DVC alumnus, coach, member of the speech & debate community. We are privileged to have worked with him on the first DVC tournament and would like to honor his legacy by giving out an award in his honor. This award will be given to the speaker who accumulates the most ***OPEN*** division sweepstakes points for their school in debate (IPDA, NPDA, LD). We value achievement in novice division, as reflected in our awarding sweepstakes points without distinction between divisions. However, we wish to recognize the highest accomplishment for individual excellence in the open division.

IPDA

1. Coach/Group Prep is permitted at our tournament in IPDA.
2. Otherwise, our tournament is governed by IPDA rules. Rules for IPDA can be found at

http://www.ipdadebate.info.

NFA-LD DEBATE (governed by NFA-LD rules)

1. For NFA-LD the debate proposition for the current academic year shall be used.

2. The format shall be: 6-3-7-3-6-6-3 with 4 minutes running prep time per person.
3. There will be 4 preliminary rounds, we will break no more than 8 debaters.
4. There will be two divisions (Novice and Open). We will follow NFA-LD rules for eligibility. We reserve the right to collapse if necessary.
5. A 10 minute forfeit rule will be strictly enforced. Any competitor not ready to debate 10 minutes after the scheduled start time forfeits unless the delay has been created by the tournament. 6. Time blocks are 1 hour and 30 minutes for each round. This includes debating, returning the ballot, and any oral critique **AFTER returning the ballot**. Disclosure of decisions is permitted. Please, observe these time requirements! We do not want the entire tournament to be late because of critics' lengthy oral critiques! Return the ballot BEFORE beginning the critique! Directors, inform your judges!

All debate elimination round advancement and seeding will be based on the following (Brackets will be broken for debate events.)

1. Won-lost record
2. Overall speaker points
3. Adjusted speaker points (dropping high/low)
4. Opponents' wins

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

We offer two preliminary rounds of Pattern A and Pattern B accompanied by the appropriate number of final rounds.

IE PATTERNS

Pattern A: Extemp, Informative, ADS, Prose, Poetry
Pattern B: Impromptu, Persuasive, CA, POI, Drama, DUO

NPDA

Coach Prep and Flex Time will be offered as per NPDA rules. We will break no more than 8 teams.

General Tournament Procedures for Individual Events:

1. There will be a novice and open division for all events. We reserve the right to collapse divisions if entries warrant. We will follow AFA and NCFA protocol regarding collapsed divisions.
2. AFA rules will govern each event.
3. Novice division is limited to students who are in their first year of college competition and have not placed in the top three at three tournaments. A student may go novice in a non-like event even if they are in a higher division in another event. For example, a student who is in open division in platforms events may still go novice in an interpretation event. **Students with any high school experience should be in open, coaches, please use your best judgment if you feel a student with experience genuinely is a novice level competitor.**