CERRITOS COLLEGE TABOR-VENITSKY INVITATIONAL

November 5, 2026

Dear Colleagues:

The Cerritos College Falcon Forensics squad is pleased to invite you to attend the annual Tabor-Venitsky Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament for community colleges February 12-14, 2027. Once again, this year we will be working in conjunction with an outstanding tab room staff to provide you with an exciting tournament. The Tabor-Venitsky traditionally provides a competitive preview of the PSCFA Spring Championships, CCCFA State, and Phi Rho Pi.

New for 2027:

- To enhance the wellness experience, we are now providing continental breakfast and lunch for all students. Note, a new per-student fee is charged to cover this cost.
- We are introducing three new awards named for past Cerritos Forensics coaches:
  - "The Bill" Lewis/Sparks Award—Open Parliamentary Debate Top Speaker
  - Wendell Hanks Top Speaker Award—IE individual sweeps
  - Donna Miller Top Overall Competitor—debate + IE individual sweeps
- We are allowing triple entry in the open division of individual events.
- We are adopting Phi Rho Pi rule changes regarding generative AI, impromptu reading time, and electronic debate prep.

We are also pleased to again offer reduced (50% off) entry fees for out-of-state schools. We hope to enhance the tournament experience by exposing your students to a diverse array of competitors, judges, and forensics styles.

We will offer four rounds of NPDA parliamentary debate breaking to a bronze/gold elimination round format on Friday, three rounds of IEs breaking to finals on Saturday, and four rounds of IPDA/LD debate breaking to a bronze/gold elimination round format on Sunday. Each day will feature its own awards ceremony. We will offer two divisions in debate and individual events. **The open division in both debate and individual events will be limited to community college students with remaining CCCFA and/or Phi Rho Pi eligibility ONLY.** There will be no coaching or group prep allowed during prep time in debate.

Please submit your entries on forensicstournament.net. All entries must be submitted by Tuesday, February 9 at 6:00pm PST. Fees will be assessed on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:00pm. Any adds after that date will be at the tournament director's discretion. However, please submit drop requests through FTN prior to each competition day to assist in paneling.

Sincerely,

Tournament Director
Katya Azzam
Assistant Professor, Communication Studies
kazzam@cerritos.edu

Assistant Tournament Director
Nick Matthews
Professor and Director of Forensics
nmatthews@cerritos.edu

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Friday
9:30 am – Parli Round 1 (topic strikes in round)
11:00 am – Parli Round 2
12:45 pm – Parli Round 3
2:15 pm – Parli Round 4
4:00 pm – Bronze Round
5:45 pm – Gold Round
ASAP – Awards

Saturday
8:00 am – Round 1 – Pattern A
9:15 am – Extemp Draw
9:30 am – Round 1 – Pattern B
11:00 am – Round 2 – Pattern A
12:45 pm – Round 3 – Pattern A
2:00 pm – Extemp Draw
2:15 pm – Round 2 - Pattern B
3:30 pm – Extemp Draw
3:45 pm – Round 3 - Pattern B
5:00 pm – Finals – Pattern A
6:15 pm – Extemp Draw
6:30 pm – Finals - Pattern B
ASAP Awards

Pattern A: Persuasive, Impromptu, POI, DI, CA, Duo
Pattern B: Informative, Extemporaneous, Prose, Poetry, STE

Sunday
9:00 am – Round 1 (topic strikes in round)
10:30 am – Round 2
12:15 pm – Round 3
1:45 pm – Round 4
3:30 pm – Elim 1
5:15 pm – Elim 2
ASAP AWARDS

Please note the schedule is tentative and subject to change.

PATTERNS

Friday: Parliamentary Debate (4 prelims/2 elims)

Please note there is no group prep or coaching allowed. Consistent with Phi Rho Pi, electronic notetaking is now permitted with the following conditions:

- Only Google Docs or Google Sheets may be used.
- Copying and pasting material into an electronic flow or speech doc is prohibited.
- Using the Internet to look up information during a round is prohibited.

We **will** use flex time. Topics will be Phi Rho Pi style (2 policy, 2 fact/value, 1 dealer's choice per round) and will be struck in competition rooms.

Saturday: Individual Events

Novice students may compete in a maximum of two events per pattern. Open students may triple-enter; however, triple entry is entirely at your own risk, and no recourse will be provided for any round missed by the student.

- **Pattern A**: Persuasive, Impromptu, POI, DI, Duo, CA
- **Pattern B**: Informative, Extemporaneous, Prose, Poetry, STE

Sunday: Individual Debate

International Public Debate Association (4 prelims/2 elims)

Please note there is no group prep or coaching allowed. Electronic notetaking is permitted with the same conditions as NPDA. Topics will be struck in competition rooms.

NFA LD (4 prelims/2 elims)

We will use the current year's resolution.

Forfeit rules

Parliamentary debate

Debaters must arrive to the competition room to strike topics within 10 minutes of the posted start time for the round. Debaters must return to the room once 20 minutes of preparation has elapsed. Judges should forfeit teams violating either time requirement.

NFA-LD debate

Debaters must arrive to the competition room within 10 minutes of the posted start time for the round. Judges should forfeit debaters violating this requirement.

IPDA debate

Debaters must arrive to the competition room to strike topics within 10 minutes of the posted start time for the round. Debaters must return to the room once 30 minutes of preparation has elapsed. Judges should forfeit teams violating either time requirement.

DIVISION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Coaches are responsible for entering their students in the appropriate division. The tournament director shall have the discretion to remove competitors in violation of these requirements from the tournament.

Novice:

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS: a novice is a student who:

- Is a community college student.*
- Has not won two trophies (1st, 2nd, or 3rd Place) in an event in which a final round occurred.
- Possesses novice eligibility in all other related events within the categories of platform, interpretation, and limited prep events. For example, a student who has won two trophies in Prose must compete in Open Poetry, even if they have never competed in Poetry before.

DEBATE: a novice debate student is a student who:

- Is a community college student.*
- Is competing in their first or second semester of debate (including any high school experience).
- Has not advanced to debate elimination rounds twice.
- In team debate, eligibility is determined by the more experienced partner. If either team member has debated for more than two semesters or competed in elimination rounds at two tournaments, they must debate in open.

*Limited waivers for university students may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Open:
The open division in all events will be limited to community college students with remaining CCCFA and/or Phi Rho Pi eligibility only. Phi Rho Pi eligibility permits students to compete for a maximum of three years.

JUDGING

Uncovered entries are contingent on a sufficient supply of available hired judges and must be requested from the tournament director at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the tournament. Additionally, drops made after the Wednesday drop deadline do not alter a school's judging commitment.

Debate:

- One judge is required for every two teams or portion thereof entered for parliamentary debate.
- One judge is required for every two debaters or portion thereof entered in LD/IPDA.
- Judges are required to judge one round beyond the elimination of their last team and all judges are committed through the first elimination round.

There will be a charge of $150 per uncovered entry for parliamentary debate, IPDA and NFA-LD. Please note that Phi Rho Pi rules prohibit disclosure. To help keep the tournament running on time, judges should electronically submit their ballots when they have made a decision and finish typing feedback to the competitors afterwards.

Individual Events:

- One judge is required for every five entries or portion thereof in the pattern with the highest number of entries.
- ALL judges are committed through the final rounds.
- There will be a charge of $20 per uncovered IE slot for the first four uncovered entries. Each uncovered entry beyond the fourth will be charged $45.

Judge Qualifications:

- We strongly encourage you to bring judges you plan to use for CCCFA and/or PRP.
- Open division judges should be 2 semesters removed from all competition and/or possess a bachelor's degree.
- Novice division judges should be at least two semesters removed from novice competition.
- In IPDA, lay judges are encouraged and may be used in any division. We ask that you please provide training to your lay judges regarding the rules and procedures of IPDA prior to the tournament.

The tournament staff reserves the right to make determinations regarding judging qualifications. Novice-only judges may not be used to cover open division entries.

Hired Judges:
If you have extra judges available for hire, please let us know, as we would like to hire them. Please have potential hired judges contact Nick Matthews at nmatthews@cerritos.edu

AWARDS

We will break to a bronze round in parliamentary debate and award the top ten speakers in each division, entries permitting. All IE finalists will receive awards. We will break to a bronze round in IPDA and NFA-LD.

Two categories of sweepstakes awards will be given out. The Large Entry category will be determined by counting the number of students entered by each school in the tournament as of Wednesday night. The largest fifty percent (plus ties) of the schools entered in the tournament will count as Large Entry. The remaining schools will count as Limited Entry.

Sweepstakes will be calculated in the following manner:

Parliamentary Debate:

- 1 point for each prelim win in debate for the four best teams per school.
- 10 points for Gold, 5 points for Silver, 3 points for Bronze across all divisions.

Individual Events:

- 10 points for 1st, 5 points for 2nd, 3 points for 3rd, and 1 point for finalist.

IPDA/LD Debate:

- 1 point for each prelim win in debate for the four best debaters per school.
- 5 points for Gold, 3 points for Silver, 2 points for Bronze across all divisions.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Accommodations and accessibility:
The tournament director will strive to make the tournament accessible for participants with disabilities. Requests for accommodations should be emailed to nmatthews@cerritos.edu. Please email requests as far in advance as possible. It may not be possible to accommodate specialized requests made at the last minute. In particular, the college requires a minimum of five business days' notice for requesting ASL interpreters.

Title IX:
All students, employees, and guests participating in the Tabor are protected under Title IX against sex-based discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual assault. Students, coaches, or judges who engage in any form of sex-based discrimination will be removed from the tournament and applicable fees assessed. If you have a Title IX related concern, Cerritos College's Title IX coordinator can be contacted via our school website.

ENTRIES & FEES

All entries must be submitted by Tuesday, February 9 at 6:00 pm PST to Forensics Tournament. If you have trouble with the entry website, please email Nick (nmatthews@cerritos.edu) for assistance.

Fees will be assessed as of Wednesday, February 10 at 6:00pm PST.

Mandatory Entry Fees—50% off for out-of-state schools

- School Fee: $50
- Wellness Fee: $9 per student per day (covers continental breakfast + lunch)
- Parliamentary Debate: $50 per team
- NFA-LD: $25 per entry
- IPDA: $25 per entry
- Individual Events: $12 per slot (Duo: $24 per team)

Judge Fees

- Uncovered IE slots: $20 per slot for first four slots; $45 per additional slot
- Uncovered Parliamentary Debate Judges: $150 per team
- Uncovered Individual Debate Judges: $150 per entry

Nuisance Fees

- No Show Fee IEs: $20 per slot
- No Show Fee Debate: $40 per entry
- Nuisance Debate Fee: $10
- Judge Nuisance Fee: $50
- Late Add Fee School Fee: $50 (after the Tuesday deadline at the tournament director's discretion)
- Late Add Fee IE Entry: $10 per event (after the Wednesday deadline at tournament director's discretion)
- Late Add Fee Debate Entry: $20 per entry (after the Wednesday deadline at tournament director's discretion)
- Drop Fee: $5 per event (after the Wednesday deadline up until 30 minutes before the start of the event)

Please make checks payable to: **Cerritos College Foundation-Forensics**

DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS

Parliamentary Debate

- Five topics will be provided in both preliminary and elimination rounds. These topics will include 2 policy, 2 fact/value and 1 dealer's choice per round.
- Resolutions will be provided in the "topics" section of each e-ballot. The judge should show the resolutions to all debaters. The opposition will read and strike 1 of the 5 topics. Immediately following, the government will read and strike 1 of the remaining topics. The process continues until one topic remains, which will be debated.
- Prep time will be **20** minutes. Prep time will start after the judge reads the resolution that will be debated.
- There is no coaching allowed during prep time. Debaters may not consult any other person besides their partner. Debaters may use paper, dictionaries, almanacs, and/or electronic research material. Except for handwritten notes that the debaters themselves have prepared during preparation time, no published materials, prepared arguments, or resources may be used during the debate. The use of generative AI during prep time is prohibited.
- Consistent with Phi Rho Pi, electronic notetaking is now permitted with the following conditions:
    - Only Google Docs or Google Sheets may be used.
    - Copying and pasting material into an electronic flow or speech doc is prohibited.
    - Using the Internet to look up information during a round is prohibited.
    - In the instance of a protest brought forward by a judge or coach after the round regarding whether or not students have violated electronic flowing rules, students will be required to provide full Editor access to all documents and/spreadsheets they used to the tournament director.
- We will use flex time in parliamentary debate.

Speech times are:

Prime Minister (Government)	7 minute Constructive
Flex time	2 minutes
Leader of the Opposition	8 minute Constructive
Flex time	2 minutes
Member of the Government	8 minute Constructive
Flex time	1 minute
Member of the Opposition	8 minute Constructive
Leader of the Opposition	4 minute Rebuttal
Flex time	1 minute
Prime Minister	5 minute Rebuttal

International Public Debate Association (IPDA)

IPDA primarily utilizes a one-on-one debate format in which one debater takes the side of the affirmative and the other debater takes the side of the negative. For each round, the two debaters are given five possible resolutions and 30 minutes of preparation. Preparation time begins when the negative begins the topic selection by striking one resolution and proceeds

in a back-and-forth fashion until one resolution is left. After the topic has been selected, both debaters prepare their cases with the remaining preparation time. IPDA debate often utilizes lay judges to adjudicate the round and emphasizes conversational rhetoric. **Visit IPDA debate to learn more.**

Speech times are:

1st Affirmative	5 minutes
Cross Examination	2 minutes
1st Negative	6 minutes
Cross Examination	2 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Summary	3 minutes

Coach preparation and the use of generative AI are not allowed during IPDA prep.

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- Copying and pasting material into an electronic flow or speech doc is prohibited.
- Using the Internet to look up information during a round is prohibited.
- In the instance of a protest brought forward by a judge or coach after the round regarding whether or not students have violated electronic flowing rules, students will be required to provide full Editor access to all documents and/spreadsheets they used to the tournament director.

NFA-LD Debate

We will follow standard NFA rules for NFA-LD with time limits of 6-3-7-3-6-6-3 with 4 minutes of preparation time for each debater.

We will also observe Phi Rho Pi rules for NFA-LD. Debaters may use the internet to access information during the round, however they are not permitted to communicate with another person or Generative AI model.

Individual Events

PATTERN A

Persuasive: An original, serious speech intended to convince an audience to accept an idea or adopt a policy of action. No more that 10% should be quoted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Impromptu: An impromptu speech, serious in nature, with topic selection varied round by round, section-by-section. Students will get 15 seconds to look at the prompts before timing begins. Speakers will then have a total of 7 minutes and may use the time at their discretion.

Duo: Two persons from the same college performing a selection from any type of literature. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes. One person may not be in more than one Duo.

Programmed Oral Interpretation: A lecture-recital format composed of two or more selections from one or more authors, utilizing at least two different genres. Program should cohere in some manner but need not be thematic, i.e. "love", "war," "hate," etc. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.
Dramatic Interpretation: This event shall consist of a cutting or cuttings from a play, teleplay or screenplay, featuring monologue or dialogue. If more than one selection is used, these selections should be linked by a thematic transition. All programs must include an introduction. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.
Communication Analysis: Analysis using rhetorical-communication principles. The analysis can be of a speech, speaker, movement, poster or other graphics, song, advertisement, play, poem, painting, etc. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

PATTERN B

Informative: An informative speech (with or without visual aids) is intended to instruct an audience rather than reinforce or change an attitude. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.
Extemporaneous: Topics taken from the areas of national and international politics, economics, and international relations. Topics will be drawn from articles published in newsmagazines within the 90 days prior to the tournament. Maximum time limit is 7 minutes. Self-contained laptops may be used in the prep-room but a power source might not be available. All use of generative AI is prohibited during prep time.
Prose: Prose shall consist of single or multiple selections of literature printed mainly in paragraph form, excluding drama. If more than one selection is used, these selections should be linked by a thematic transition. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.
Poetry: A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes, including introduction and transitions.
Speech to Entertain/ADS: A humorous treatment of issues or events, avoiding material of questionable taste. The speech should be original rather than an imitation or impersonation of a comedian or monologue. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.