Argy-Bargy

- (noun): A lively discussion: Argument, Dispute (Merriam Webster Dictionary)
- (noun): loud argument or disagreement that is not usually serious (Cambridge Dictionary)

Argy-Bargies

- (noun): plural of argy-bargy, chiefly British as in *discussions*. An exchange of views for the purpose of exploring a subject or deciding an issue (Merriam Webster Dictionary)

Arkansas Tech University Speech & Debate

1815 Coliseum Drive Russellville, AR 72801

October 4, 2026

Dear IPDA Colleagues,

The Arkansas Tech University Speech & Debate Team is proud to invite you to our main campus in Russellville, AR for the **3rd Annual "ATU Argy-Bargies" IPDA debate tournament** which will take place during the weekend of **November 20-22, 2026**. We are proud to offer a weekend of competition featuring a full team IPDA tournament as well as a full Individual IPDA tournament. We hope to give you all a great weekend of debate as we use this for a "test run" for hosting IPDA Nationals this coming Spring! More on that in a moment…

We look forward to once again hosting a tournament that will provide opportunity to hold lively discussions that are usually un-serious and held for the purpose of exploring subjects and deciding issues. As was the case with our inaugural "ATU Argy-Bargies" last year, we look forward to providing a tournament which will foster an atmosphere of fun, vigorously undertaken publicly oriented debate amongst collegially contentious collegiate competitors.

As promised, here is more. **We are extremely excited to offer you a new service at our tournament this year**: the opportunity to eat your meals (or at least most of them) during the tournament on our campus! I was asked to share this **message from our cafeteria's General Manager:**

"Welcome to Arkansas Tech University for the 3rd Annual ATU Argy-Bargies Tournament! Meals will be available in Chambers Dining Hall during the following meal periods:

- Friday Lunch: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Friday Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday Pizza Party: Time TBD
- Saturday Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday Brunch: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Weekend brunch features both breakfast and lunch favorites. Meals are $10.56 per person plus tax and will be billed through each team's CaterTrax account. To ensure accurate billing, all participants must present their student ID when entering the dining hall so meals can be tracked to the appropriate team account. Cashiers will maintain meal counts throughout the weekend, and final billing will be reconciled and processed after the tournament based on actual meals served."

Justin Lewandowski
General Manager
Arkansas Tech University

sodexo CAMPUS

So, the cafeteria will be open and you may (if you wish) create an account and have the cost of your team's meals billed out to you after the tournament is concluded. It is my understanding that you may also go through the line and pay with cash or card, but we hope this offers you another convenient option, More importantly (from our perspective) no one should need rush off campus to get meals in between rounds (or eat cold food because your team got it while you were in round). Of course, lunch (pizza) will be provided by us for lunch on Saturday- Sodexho will be opening the cafeteria pizza line for this so we can all sit and eat comfortably during that meal as well.

As always, IPDA rules will be adhered to at our tournament; if you need a copy of the rules for IPDA debate, they are located on the association website at www.ipdadebate.info. **Strike and preparation rules will be adhered to**, and all ~~five~~ three IPDA questions types will be used, so your competitors should come prepared to answer these questions three (types): 1) "what is your name" (fact), 2) "what is your quest" (policy), and 3) "what is your favorite color" (value).

We also deem it to be in the spirit of both the name "Argy-Bargies" and the best practices in IPDA (as a form of limited prep debate) to **offer topics that are not necessarily serious and that heavily favor the application of logic and reasoning over the use or recitation of "researched facts"**. We are grateful for the positive feedback we received for this approach at our inaugural offering, and want you to know we will continue this approach to selecting topics for our tournament again this year. Therefore,

Debaters should come prepared to encounter topics on the strike sheets that will perhaps require them to use their intellectual skills more than their computers in case preparation.

Both the tournament topics and each round's strike sheets will once again be thematic, though the theme(s) will change from last year's overarching theme.

One of the reasons ATU joined the IPDA was the IPDA's focus on civility; our tournament will honor that fundamental character aspect of the IPDA by once again providing a series of "Civil Discourse" awards. These awards will be presented for each division (TIPDA top speaker and top team, Novice, JV, Varsity and Professional) as well as to the top overall community college and overall program. **The calculations for these awards will be done as follows:**

1. **Judges will be provided with and asked to utilize the eight "IPDA criteria for determining speaker points"** (which can be found on the "2018 IPDA Nationals" ballot located on the IPDA website) as part of their decisions throughout the preliminary rounds of the tournament.
2. Average scores (using the 12-5 scale found on the ballot referenced previously) for the three criteria of "delivery", "courtesy" and "appropriate tone" will be used to determine the "Civil Discourse" awards for individual speakers.
    a. The best overall team award in the TIPDA division will be calculated using the combined average scores for both team members as described above.
3. **For program awards, we will utilize a "true average" to minimize disparity of opportunity between larger and small programs.** All team members' points will be counted throughout the preliminary rounds for the criteria named above, and then averaged by the number of program entries to calculate the program awards.
    a. Program awards will be awarded for best TIPDA program, best IPDA program, and best overall program in both the CC and overall program categories.

IT IS A POINT OF PRIDE THAT WE RUN OUR TOURNAMENT ON TIME!!! Please ensure that your competitors and judges know to be in their assigned rooms at the end of the strike and prep period. The IPDA guidelines on forfeitures will be enforced; **if a competitor is more than 5 minutes late to topic strike FOR ANY REASON, their competitor will be allowed to choose the topic for the round and prep time will continue unabated** (the round will not be delayed)**.**

Similarly, any competitor that is more than 5 minutes late to their round FOR ANY REASON will forfeit that round to their assigned competitor and standard tabroom procedures for assigning speaker points in forfeited rounds will be followed. On a brighter note (and as will always be the case at our tournament), banging coconuts together on your way to rounds is optional (so long as you are still timely to rounds), but due to budgetary constraints coconuts will not be provided to you for this purpose.

If you have a coach, judge or competitor needing accommodation due to ADA-related issues please send an e-mail to the tournament host (gadkins@atu.edu) with the subject line "ADA Request for 2026 Argy-Bargies" in conjunction with your entry so that we may make suitable accommodations when setting up the tournament room assignments, etc. We have a fairly generous but nonetheless limited number of competition rooms near the team preparation areas which will be assigned on an "as requested" basis.

The preliminary schedule for our tournament weekend is as follows (elimination round schedules may be adjusted depending on the number of entries per category):

Friday, Nov. 20		Saturday, Nov. 21		Sunday, Nov. 22	
10:30-11:15	Registration	7:30- 8:00	Registration	8:15-9:45	IPDA Elim I
11:30-12:45	TIPDA Rd. 1	8:15-9:45	IPDA Rd. 1	10:00-11:15	Awards Ceremony
1:00-2:15	TIPDA Rd. 2	10:00-11:30	IPDA Rd. 2	11:15-	Remaining IPDA Elims
2:30-3:45	TIPDA Rd. 3	11:45-1:15	IPDA Rd. 3		
4:00-5:15	TIPDA Rd. 4	1:30-2:45	IPDA Rd. 4		
5:15-6:15	Dinner & Ballot Check	3:00- 4:30	IPDA Rd. 5		
6:15-7:45	TIPDA Elim I	4:45-6:15	IPDA Rd. 6		
8:00-9:15	TIPDA Elim II	6:30-7:30	Dinner/Ballot Check		
		7:30- 9:00	TIPDA Elim III		
		9:15-10:30	TIPDA Elim IV (if needed)		

Thank you in advance for your support of our tournament offerings; we look forward to a great weekend hosting you all!

Sincerely,

Dr. Gabriel L. Adkins, M.S., M.A.C., Ph.D.
Professor of Communication Studies
Director of Speech & Debate
Arkansas Tech University

Lodging:

The following Hotels in Russellville and Clarksville are recommended. Additional lodging options (if needed) can be found in the nearby towns of Morrilton, AR and Clarksville, AR (both are within 30 miles of our campus). There are several other hotels in the area; please feel free to contact Dr. Adkins at gadkins@atu.edu if you need additional hotel listings. Still no grail-shaped beacons aa far as we know.

Hampton Inn	(479) 858-7199
Fairfield Inn & Suites	(479) 967-9030
Clarion Inn & Suites	(479) 968-4300
Days Inn & Suites	(479) 705-7600
La Quinta Inn & Suites	(877) 298-2066

Entry Deadlines, Fees, and Judges:

1. The entry deadline will be noon on Tuesday, November 17, 2026. Changes will be accepted at no charge until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18th, 2026. Any additional changes or drops after that time will be charged a fee of $10.00 per alteration.
2. Entries should be EITHER completed via the tournament website on forensicstournament.net (ftn) or sent (using the form included below) to gadkins@atu.edu. PLEASE TITLE the subject line of the e-mail "2026 ATU Argy-Bargy Entries".
3. Please indicate if any of your participants have ADA-related mobility needs so that we may accommodate them with appropriate room and building assignments.
4. Entry Fees are as follows:
    a. **Team IPDA entries:**
        i. Covered: $40.00 per team entered
        ii. Uncovered: $60.00 per uncovered team entered
    b. **Individual IPDA entries:**
        i. Covered: $30.00 per entry
        ii. Uncovered: $45.00 per entry
5. One judge will cover 2 IPDA Teams AND/OR 4 Individual IPDA entries.
    a. Judges (and eliminated competitors if needed) will be expected to be available for judging one round past the round in which all of their squad's competitors are eliminated.
6. Entry fee payment may be made via either check or cash; we do not have the ability to take credit card payments. Any checks should be made out to "ATU Speech & Debate".
    a. Please note that unfortunately, we must say "niche" to accepting shrubberies and/or herrings as forms of payment- as much as we hate to say it.

Special Notes:

1. Parking on Friday is available next to the Tucker Coliseum. On Saturday & Sunday the campus is open parking.
2. The Tab Room will be closed to competitors during the tournament. Coaches who are not competing (i.e. in the Professional Division) will have access to the Tab Room throughout the tournament.
3. All IPDA rules will be adhered to throughout the tournament, including those rules regarding the use of evidence. Please prepare your squads accordingly. You are also encouraged to familiarize your judges with the standard "back of the ballot" guidelines found on page 6 of the following document from the IPDA website: http://www.ipdadebate.info/uploads/4/9/8/1/4981933/guide_to_a_typical_ipda_tournament.pdf
4. The 30-minute strike and prep time will be enforced. This time will start as soon as the strike sheets have been distributed for the round. Competitors and judges will be expected to be AT THE ASSIGNED ROOM AND READY TO BEGIN THE DEBATE by the end of the 30-minute strike and prep period.
    a. If competitors are not at the room within 5 minutes of the end of the prep period, they will forfeit that round to their competitor(s) and be assigned zero speaker points (if Team IPDA, this will apply to both forfeiting competitors) for that round.
    b. The competitor(s) on the receiving end of the forfeit will accordingly be assigned speaker points based on the average of their speakers points in their other rounds (again, this will apply to both competitors in a Team IPDA round) for any rounds forfeited to them.
    c. Exceptions to the above will be considered by the Tournament Director on a case-by-case basis if needed. Exceptions to the forfeit rule will only be considered in extreme and uncontrollable circumstances.
5. Points and will be assigned in accordance with the IPDA Constitution and Bylaws.
6. If possible (based on competitor availability), elimination rounds will be accelerated and/or condensed.
7. ATU is a tobacco-free campus. There will be no tolerance on the part of our campus police for smoking or vaping, so please ask us about campus-adjacent areas where you may use tobacco products if you have the need to do so (otherwise, they might take you off in the cart!).

2026 "ATU Argy-Bargies" Debate Tournament School Entry Form:

Institution Name	Contact Name	E-mail	Emergency Phone (Cell)

TIPDA Tournament Entries:

Team Member Names	TIPDA Entry Fee
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
Total TIPDA Entry Fees:	**$**

Individual IPDA Tournament Entries:

Competitor Name	Division	IPDA Entry Fee
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
Total TECH IPDA Entry Fees:		**$**

Institution Judges:

Judge Name	Coach?	
Uncovered Judging Fees (if applicable):		**$**

Entry Fee Totals:

TIPDA	$
IPDA	$
Uncovered Judging Fees	$
Total ATU TMU/TECH Swing Entry Fees:	**$**

If space for additional entries is needed, please use additional tournament entry forms.