



2025 Border Wars Speech and Debate Tournament

Hosted by:

Tulsa Community College

Director of Forensics: John Mikolajcik

&

Sterling College

Director of Forensics: Ken Troyer

October 31- November 2, 2025

Hosted by Tulsa Community College in Tulsa, OK at
the TCC Southeast Campus

Colleagues, Competitors, Judges, and friends;

We invite you to the return of one of the most anticipated tournaments in the Midwest, Border Wars. Originally created by Gary Harmon at Kansas Wesleyan University, the tournament had a tradition of providing amazing competition, outstanding community, good food, and long-lasting memories. This tournament is making a comeback in all its glory at Tulsa Community College on the beautiful Southeast Campus. John Mikolajcik, former KWU debater, is proud to carry on the legacy of Border Wars with Co-host Sterling College and their Director Ken Troyer who was influential in running tab for many years at the Original Border Wars tournaments. This tournament will be convened October 31 – November 2, 2025

In the tradition of great competition and community, we are going to offer 3 debate tournaments and two individual events tournaments that your team can come and compete in. We will offer a Friday/Saturday IPDA Tournament and a Saturday/Sunday TIPDA Tournament. We will also offer two Individual event tournaments one on Saturday and one on Sunday. We hope that your programs are excited for good competition, good people, and good eats in Tulsa. As part of this program, we are going to limit the participation of Team IPDA entries during the Individual Events portion of the tournament to T-IPDA only. IPDA will have 4 divisions of competition (Novice, JV, Varsity, Pro) and T-IPDA will have one division. We would like each team who enters IE events to confirm Novice Entrants during check-in so we are can recognize the top Novice Competitors at each Awards Ceremony.

One lasting memory that Gary Harmon instilled as a coach and mentor is that people should be treated well at a tournament. To ensure that you have the best experience that you can at Border Wars, there will be an immense amount of hospitality for you and your teams. As part of attendance, there will be constant grab and go snacks, lunch, and dinner provided for competitors, coaches, judges, and spectators. As part of your registration, we just ask that you note any dietary restrictions so we can make sure that we have food for everyone at the event. We will also have pumpkins for each team to carve as we will be competing near Halloween.

We hope that you are excited for the return of Border Wars as an annual mark on your Forensics and Debate Calendar.

Thank you,

John Mikolajcik

Director of Forensics at Tulsa Community College

And

Ken Troyer

Director of Forensics at Sterling College

Tournament Guidelines

Tulsa Community College Portion

AFA-NIET rules will be followed in the participation and tabbing of all individual events. The patterns are:

Pattern A: DI, EXT, PER, POE, PRO,

Pattern B: ADS, CA, DUO, IMP, INF, POI

Pattern C: T-IPDA – Competitors cannot enter IE events

Debate will follow IPDA guidelines, except as specified in this invitation. IPDA will be offered on Friday and team IPDA will be offered Saturday/ Sunday. Novice Division is for any first-year competitors with no previous High School experience. Junior division is for any competitor in their first 2 years in collegiate debate. We will do our best to avoid collapsing divisions pending registration. Varsity and Professional Divisions will utilize standard IPDA Practice Entry Fees

Registration will take place on speechwire.com. Preliminary entry is due by Tuesday October 28, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

This will give us time to collate and build the rooms, assign judges, and make sure that competition is completed on time.

Sterling College Swing

Pattern A: DI, EXT, PER, POE, PRO,

Pattern B: ADS, CA, DUO, IMP, INF, POI

Fees

Please make all checks payable Tulsa Community College for October 31 – Nov 1 and Sterling College for the Swing on November 2.

Individual Events: \$10 Per event – (1 judge covers 6 entries)

IPDA Teams: \$40 (*one judge covers 2 entries*)

T-IPDA: \$40 (one judge covers 2 entries)

Miscellaneous Fees

Uncovered IPDA entries: \$60 per uncovered debater

Uncovered T-IPDA: \$60 per uncovered team

IE Drops at tournament: \$30 at tournament registration

IPDA Drops at tournament: \$50 at tournament registration

Payment by cash, check or PO is expected at registration.

All IE judges are expected to be available for final rounds. Debate judges are expected to be available for one round past when their teams are eliminated. Non-Advancing students in IPDA and T-IPDA will be added to the judging pool for the divisions they did not-compete in.

Judges:

Tulsa is a place that has a rich debate history, but we do not have that many people we can reach out to hire for judges. As part of our hosting responsibility, we will work as the host schools to find judges. We will also create a list of Judges who schools can hire as well if you need to hire a judge.

IPDA NOTE: Currently, we are not flighting IPDA as we have a large number of rooms that we can use at the event. That is why 1 Judge covers 2 entries at this tournament instead of 4 like you may see at other tournaments. Should this need to change with judges and rounds, we will make adjustments to judge requirements for teams and notify the coaches.

Awards

All IE finalist and debate elimination round contestants will receive awards.

For each IE tournament, sweepstakes awards will be given to the top 3 schools and top 3 Pentathlon speakers.

Pentathlon eligibility requires students to compete in events, which must include at least one interpretation event (DI, DUO, POE, POI, PRO) and one public address event (ADS, CA, INF, PER, EXT, IMP). Students must compete in 5 Total events to be eligible for this award. Debate will count as one entry into pentathlon.

In debate, the top 6 speakers in each division of IPDA and T-IPDA will receive awards. The top 3 schools will also win awards. For team debate sweeps, only the top five entries in each division of debate will count towards the award.

The top 3 overall schools in IE and debate during the swing will also be recognized, as well as the top community college and top program from Oklahoma. To calculate overall team awards, the percentage of total points in earned in IE's plus the percentage of total points earned in debate will be utilized as the determining factor in ranking these programs.

Sweepstakes

Prelim points

1=3

debate win =4

2=2
3=1

Final placing for all 1=6, 2=5, 3=4, 4=3, 5=2, 6=1

Rules for all events

*No speech or program used by the contestant in competition shall have been used prior to August 1st preceding the tournament.

*Speeches must be the original work of the student.

*AFA-NIET rules shall be followed for all individual events.

* IPDA RULES will be used for IPDA. Exceptions to the rules for accessibility reasons will be discussed with the competitors coach and all coaches will be notified. Border Wars will not violate a competitors accessibility needs in order to place the rules above a competitors ability to compete and in every instance we will work with all teams to ensure fair and equitable competition.

*T-IPDA Rules will be used to govern T-IPDA during preliminary and out rounds.

A Special Note about accommodations: To keep speech and debate a welcoming home for all competitors, Border Wars is asking you to let us know if you need any accommodations for competitors, judges, or coaches. We believe that speech and debate is made great by the competitors, coaches, and judges and as tournament directors we should strive to continue a legacy of openness, accessibility, equity, diversity, and inclusion. We will also put notes on ballots that judges are to judge the character of the piece/debate instead of judging the person who is performing the piece. Racism, sexism, homophobia, bigotry, and discrimination should have no home in speech and debate and will find no home at the Border Wars Tournament because the beauty of speech and debate is finding the confidence in our voices to change the world so the welcoming home of this activity spreads into more facets of our lives.

Friday October 31, 2025 Schedule for IPDA

Check in Time: 8:30 AM

Round 1 Topic Announce: 9:00 AM

Round 2 Topic Announce: 10:30 AM

Round 3 Topic Announce: 12:00 PM

Lunch 1:15 – 2:00 - Provided by tournament

Round 4 Topic Draw: 2:00 PM

Round 5 Topic Draw: 3:30 PM

Round 6 Topic Draw: 5:00 PM

Dinner 6:15 – 7:00 PM – Provided by tournament

Elimination Round 1 Topic Draw 7:00 PM

Saturday November 1, 2025 Schedule for Individual Events

Check in for Individual Events – 7:30 – 8:00 AM

Extemp Draw – 8:00 AM

Individual Events Round 1A – 8:30 AM

Individual Events Round 1B – 10:00 AM

Individual Events Round 2B – 11:30 AM

Lunch from 12:30 – 1:30 PM

Extemp Draw Round 2A – 1:30 PM CST

Individual Events Round 2A – 2:00 PM CST

Final Round for Individual Events Pattern B: 4:00 PM CST

Final Round for Individual Events Patter A: 5:30 PM CST

Awards -- ASAP

Saturday November 1, 2025 Schedule for IPDA / T-IPDA DEBATE

Elimination Round 2: 7:30 AM CST TOPIC DRAW

Elimination Round 3 Draw 9:00 AM CST

Elimination Round 4 (If Needed) 10:30 PM CST Draw

Break from 12:00 – 1:30

START TEAM IPDA at 1:30

T-IPDA Round 1 Topic Draw at 1:30 PM CST

T-IPDA Round 2 Topic Draw at 3:00 PM CST

T-IPDA Round 3 Topic Draw at 5:00 PM CST

Sunday November 2, 2025 Schedule for T-IPDA

T-IPDA Round 4 Topic Draw at 8:00 AM CST

T-IPDA Round 5 Topic Draw at 9:30 AM CST

T-IPDA Elimination Round 1 Topic Draw at 11:30 PM CST

T-IPDA Elimination Round 2 Topic Draw at 1:30 PM CST

T-IPDA Elimination Round 3 Topic Draw at 3:45 PM CST

Sunday Individual Event Schedule

8:00 AM: Extemp Draw Round 1A

8:30 AM: Round 1A Begins

9:45 AM: Extemp Draw Round 2A Begins

10:00 AM: Round 2A begins

11:15 AM: Round 1B Begins

12:30 – 1:30 PM Lunch for Debate and Individual Events

1:30 PM: Round 2 B Begins

2:45 PM Finals Extemp Draw Begins

3:00 PM: Finals Round for flight A

4:30 PM: Finals for Round B

Awards are Asap after the conclusion of finals Flight B.