



2012 Online Debate Tournament

December 29, 2011

On behalf of the International Public Debate Association, we invite you to participate in the inaugural IPDA Online Debate Tournament held on January 21, 2012. This tournament will feature a program versus program format using a computer mediated modality. A program may choose different students for each round if they choose. The debate will offer four preliminary rounds of IPDA-style competition. Entry fees are being covered by the IPDA and entries will be limited to the first 16 programs to enter; the tournament will break to semi-finals.

The 2012 tournament offering is considered an exhibition only and will not affect IPDA standings nor will it count towards eligibility requirements for the Novice Division (the Executive Committee has agreed to consider this an exhibition not counting as a "tournament" for eligibility purposes). Eligibility requirements will follow the standard for the Varsity division competition. Please note that we are hoping to not only validate the concept of an annual Skype Debate but be able to record and archive the highest level of competitive rounds as training tools for new programs and debaters.

Entries may be made beginning at 10:00 a.m. CST on Monday, January 9, 2012. All entries must be received via email to tournament@ipdadebate.info no later than **Friday, January 13, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. CST.** Again, this field is limited to the 16 programs on a "first come, first served" basis.

We look forward to seeing you in January.

Cordially,

Bob Alexander
IPDA President
Bossier Parish Community College

Joe Ganakos
Tournament Co-Director
Lee College

Trey Gibson
Tournament Co-Director
LSU – Shreveport

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TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Rounds 1-3 will be paired and posted at the appointed times via the IPDA website. Round 4 will be power-matched.

Saturday, January 21st

Online postings will occur a minimum of 15 minutes prior to each round at <http://www.IPDADebate.info>

8:30 am	Skype Lounge Opens
9:00 am	Mandatory Competitor & Judge Check-In With Tournament Staff (via Skype)
10:00 am	Draw - Round 1
11:45 am	Draw - Round 2
1:30 pm	Draw - Round 3
3:30 pm	Draw - Round 4
6:15 pm	Draw - Semi-Finals
8:15 pm	Draw – Finals

Note: All times are Central Standard Time.

DEBATE INFORMATION

Prior to each draw, a program will choose their representative for the round. Using the traditional IPDA style of debate, the representatives from each program will go through the normal strike system eliminating topics with their selected opponents. Thirty minutes after the designated draw time, each program and judge will meet via assigned Skype video conferences and participate in a live debate using the traditional 5-2-6-2-3-5-3 format. If you're new to IPDA debate, please feel free to contact the tournament staff with any questions and/or visit our website at <http://www.ipdadebate.info>.

Much like a traditional tournament, debate rounds cannot be delayed or paused indefinitely due to technical difficulties. Any program not logged in at the beginning of a debate round, or who loses connection mid-round, has a maximum of ten (10) minutes to resolve their issue or log in via an alternate/backup computer. Any individual or cumulative delay greater than ten (10) minutes by either programmatic competitor will be treated as that programmatic competitor yielding the remainder of their speaking time for that round, and their opponent may deliver his/her remaining speech(es) prior to the judge issuing their decision.

While Skype will be the synchronous interface for debate rounds, we will also be making use of the IPDA Website found at <http://www.ipdadebate.info> for the purposes of postings, updates, and other tournament-related matters.

TECHNOLOGY CONSIDERATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

Each program will compete in assigned Skype video conferences provided by the IPDA Tournament staff. We recommend that you compete on your college or university's campus using computers attached to a high speed internet connection provided by your institution. All competitors and judges must have access to the following:

1. A stable, high-speed internet connection.
2. A Windows-based PC with Skype (v5.1 or more recent update) installed.
3. A webcam or laptop with built-in camera and microphone.

Obviously, competitors and judges may not share a PC nor should they share a common room during a round of debate. We urge you to contact your institutional IT department for assistance in setting up your equipment and any necessary trouble shooting.

If possible, we do encourage you to have at least one backup Skype-ready computer (with webcam) in case of in-round technical difficulties. Please refer to the 10-minute grace period permitted for technical difficulties.

Additionally, it may also be prudent to use a hard-wired connection rather than WiFi for the purposes of judging and competition.

Please note: tournament staff may ask a representative of each program to engage in a live test of their Skype connection prior to the beginning of the tournament. This request will be made at the time that entry verifications are sent via email.

If you have any technical questions or concerns please contact Joe Ganakos at jganakos@lee.edu or (281)425-6502.

DEBATE ELIGIBILITY

Varsity Division entries must adhere to the following definition: Competitors must be currently enrolled students at the institution they are representing and must be representing an official program affiliated with an academic institution; they will no longer be eligible to compete in the Varsity Division:

- a) once they have been awarded a 4-year, undergraduate, Bachelor's-level degree; but, this restriction does not include 2-year, Associate-level degrees.
- b) and/or following competition in any format of debate while representing a college/university during ten semesters of competition or fifteen quarters of competition (depending upon the classification system of their academic institution). For institutions observing the semester system, a semester of eligibility is used when a student competes in more than 2 debate tournaments during that period; for institutions observing the quarter system, a quarter of eligibility is used when a student competes in 2 or more debate tournaments during that period.

AWARDS

Programs will receive awards for elimination rounds. Programs will advance into elimination rounds based upon the following formula: 1) win-loss record, 2) total points, 3) adjusted points, and 4) opposition wins.

Top five speaker awards will be awarded to Programs. Speaker awards will be based on the cumulative points earned by each program through the preliminary round by the following formula: 1) total speaker points, 2) adjusted speaker points, 3) number of prelim round wins, and 4) opposition wins.

JUDGES

One judge will cover each programmatic participant. Judges will be required to remain available for all out-rounds. Programs are encouraged to provide multiple judges if possible to provide for clean out-rounds.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WAIVER

The IPDA will be recording and archiving all debate rounds in this tournament. Any program competing in this tournament must understand that participation will serve as tacit authorization for future use of these debate videos for training or promotional purposes.

ENTRY DEADLINE

All entries must be received by **Friday, January 13, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. CST**. They must be emailed to tournament@ipdadebate.info. Entry confirmations will be sent by Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. CST – if you do not receive one, please contact Trey Gibson at 318-797-5081.