



Dear Colleagues,

The Mountain View and Los Altos Speech and Debate team cordially invites you to the 7th annual Karen Keefer Invitational, which will take place on **November 1** at Mountain View High School. Mrs. Keefer is a former speech-parent-turned-NSDA-Diamond-coach who volunteered with MVLA and the Coast Forensics League for over twenty years. We hope to continue her legacy of support for students by providing an accessible novice warm-up event!

The event will run from **8:30 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday**. There will be **4 rounds of novice Lincoln-Douglas, Parliamentary, and Public Forum debate and four rounds of novice Impromptu, mixed interpretation events, and mixed Original events**, with hidden finals in round 4 for the top two teams in each debate division and the top panel in each speech division. Awards for those with winning records or better will be announced and presented at the end of the tournament, and the champions of the final will be recognized.

The tournament will utilize **tabroom.com** for entry, pairings, and results of all events. All judges must have tabroom.com accounts with phone numbers linked.

Middle and high school students are welcome. An adult chaperone must be listed and available on site. Students found NOT to have their listed adult chaperone on site may be removed from the event. We encourage all debaters to be respectful of their peers and judges, in order to maintain a safe and welcoming debate environment.

Tournament Director  
Julie Herman

2025 Student Organizing  
Committee



# Events, Divisions, Entries & Judging

## **Entry Fees**

Each LD entry must pay a fee of \$45, and each Public Forum/Parliamentary entry must pay \$65. Each speech entry must pay a fee of \$25. In the cases of Public Forum and Parliamentary, one team will constitute a single entry. Teams must complete registration by October 29. Digital payments via Zelle ([zelle@mvlasdb.org](mailto:zelle@mvlasdb.org)) or PayPal.me/mvlasdb (or sent to [accounting@mvlasdb.org](mailto:accounting@mvlasdb.org)) are preferred. Please send an email to [julieherman@mvlasdb.org](mailto:julieherman@mvlasdb.org) with your transaction receipt and/or transaction ID. Checks should be made out to “MVLA Speech & Debate Boosters” and brought to registration the morning of the event.

Title I schools or individuals with financial need should email [julieherman@mvlasdb.org](mailto:julieherman@mvlasdb.org) for information on fee breaks.

There will be a \$10 nuisance fee for entry changes after registration is closed.

## **Who is a Novice?**

A novice is any high school student who has competed in any event for less than one year who has not broken in any JV or varsity divisions as a high school competitor at the time of registration OR any middle school student who has competed in any event for less than two years and has not broken in any JV or Varsity divisions or capstone tournaments (e.g. CHSSA Middle School, Middle School TOC, NSDA Nationals) at the time of registration. Please reach out to discuss if you have students who you think have reasonable exceptions to these eligibility rules—we understand that online competition created unusual circumstances.

## **Parliamentary**

Parliamentary debate will follow the 7 - 8 - 8 - 8 - 4 - 5 format using the CHSSA guidelines. Topics will be announced 20 minutes before the beginning of the round in a Google document and verbally to debaters in an assigned prep room. Debaters may use the internet, downloaded files, prepared files, or paper articles in preparation, but may not consult any teammates, coaches, or other individuals during preparation time. Any outside resources being brought into the room will result in an automatic loss of the round.

## **Lincoln Douglas**

Lincoln Douglas will use the November/December topic as presented on the NSDA official website, and will follow the 6 - 3 - 7 - 3 - 4 - 6 - 3 format. Maximum prep time will be 4 minutes. Notice that the tournament will follow NSDA rules.. Evidence will be held to the highest standard and complete citations are highly encouraged.



### **Public Forum**

Public Forum will use the November topic, and will follow the 4 - 4 - 3 - 4 - 4 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 2 - 2 format (in accordance with the NSDA pilot rules). Each team will have access to 3 minutes of prep time during the round. Sides and order will be locked to posting; there will be no preliminary round coinflips.

### **Interpretation and Original**

Any type of individual interpretation (OI/DEC, HI, DI, POI, POE, PRO) can be entered in the interpretation event. Any type of original event without props (OO, OA, OPP, OSW, prop-free INFOs) can be entered in the original event. The time limit for each speech will be 10 minutes. Notes are permitted but judges may use being off script as a differentiator between competitors.

### **Impromptu**

The times will be 2 minutes of prep and 5 minutes of speaking. Notes are permitted but judges may use being off script as a differentiator between competitors.

### **Judging**

One judge will be required per two entries in a given debate division, or four entries in a given speech division, rounded up. If a school fails to provide a sufficient number of judges, that school will be fined \$200 per missing judge. Judges who are called for ballots but fail to appear will be fined \$100 per round missed. Varsity students are welcome to cover obligations, but please use your best judgment about the students you provide, who should be substantially experienced sophomores (e.g. 250+ NSDA points) or better. If you think you have a student who deserves an exception, please reach out. Schools may buy out of their judging in advance by contacting the tournament director (as available). We encourage parents to volunteer even if this is their first time judging. We will provide virtual judge training resources. Half-day commitments are not permitted. Tabroom.com accounts are mandatory for all judges in order to access online ballots for rounds.

### **Double Entry**

Students may double enter in up to two speech categories. Students may not cross enter in speech AND parliamentary debate. Students may cross enter in PF/LD and one speech category but do so at their own risk; any debate/speech cross-entries should attend their debate round first if they are flight 1.



# Location & Support

## **Location Info**

The easiest place to park is the student lot off Bryant Avenue. A map is available [here](#).

## **Food**

We will provide snacks and coffee for judges for free and snacks for purchase for students. Pizza will be available to all (free for judges, paid for competitors) for lunch.

## **Help Line**

Email: [tournament@mvlasdb.org](mailto:tournament@mvlasdb.org)

A physical help desk will also be available day-of in the library lobby, but we encourage use of the email line first.

## **Behavioral Norms**

Coaches or other adults should not communicate with students during rounds.

There is no recording of rounds allowed. If someone is caught recording rounds, they will be removed from the tournament and the infraction will be reported to their institution. Recording children without their parents' permission is illegal, and the tournament is not collecting permission forms for recording.

All consumption of food should take place outdoors.



# Tentative Schedule

## FRIDAY

3:00-8:00 pm	Virtual registration is available for schools that have paid digitally
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## SATURDAY

8:00 am	Same-day registration opens; please plan to complete by 8:15
8:30 am	Round 1 LD/PF/SPEECH Round Start; Parliamentary Topic Announce
8:50 am	Round 1 Parli Start
10:15 am	Round 2 LD/PF/SPEECH Round Start; Parliamentary Topic Announce
10:35 am	Round 2 Parli Start
12:15 pm	Lunch Break (bring a packed lunch!)
12:45 pm	Round 3 LD/PF/SPEECH Round Start; Parliamentary Topic Announce
1:05 pm	Round 3 Parli Start
2:30 pm	Round 4 LD/PF/SPEECH Round Start (Hidden Final); Parliamentary Topic Announce
2:50 pm	Round 4 Parli Start (Hidden Final)
4:15 pm	Award Ceremony