

TOMBALL THROWDOWN UIL INVITATIONAL

The Tomball High School speech and academic teams invite you to our UIL invitational meet on Saturday, Feb. 10th, at Tomball High School.

Events. We will offer all UIL academic and speech events, all on one day. All test materials will be UIL Set B materials.

Divisions. Sweepstakes awards, but not individual contest awards, will be divided into small/large squad divisions.

Materials. We will use UIL Set B materials. This is the first weekend of Set B.

Judging. Academic coaches are **EXPECTED** to grade. Schools with speech entries must either provide a qualified and experienced judge for ALL rounds (including FINALS) or pay a \$150 fee for each judge owed. Qualified hired judges will also be used as needed. Journalism teams will pay a \$125 judging fee but we are getting quality judges (including Bobby Hawthorn and Sue Blackmon!) who will really help your kids prepare for district and give strong feedback. A single judge may cover one speech and one debate obligation. **We prefer your judges to your money!**

Hospitality. Food will be provided for coaches, judges and bus drivers throughout the day on Saturday. Concessions for students will be sold in the cafeteria. There are plenty of nearby fast-food restaurants (Whataburger, Chick-fil-A, McDonalds, Burger King, Jack in the Box and more) and some amazing restaurants (Tejas BBQ, Pecos Grill, Cisco's Tex-Mex and more).

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ALL ENTRIES ARE DUE BY 4 P.M. ON MONDAY, FEB 5, 2024.

Academic events:	\$10 per entry
Individual speech events:	\$15 per entry
LD:	\$20 per entry
Speech judging fees:	\$150 per <u>uncovered</u> obligation (see above for details)
Journalism judging fees:	\$125 per school (see above for details)

Once your school is entered, you are obligated for all fees. Drops made after 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 will result in loss of entry fee, although substitutions are allowed up to the start of the event.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. See you in February!

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ACADEMICS

1. If your academic contestants wish to cross-enter in speech/debate events, please pay careful attention to the schedule to avoid time conflicts. We will not delay the start of academic contests for the sake of missing students!
2. Each Computer Applications contestant must provide ALL hardware, software, and supplies (including paper, surge protector and extension cord). Rooms will open at 9:30 a.m. for set-up. If there is no grader provided, your student will be disqualified.
3. Due to space and electrical plug availability constraints, the use of laptops **will not be allowed** in journalism and ready writing events. We will offer these events in a computer lab and printing will be provided.
4. We will enforce the following entry limits on a first-come, first-served basis. Any students over this limit you can add to a waiting list. If we have space for additional students, we'll add in the extras!

Journalism & Ready Writing: Limit 6 per school unless space permits. Copy editing & headline have no entry limit. Students will be pulled from the waiting list if the event does not max out by the final registration deadline. We will attempt to seat everyone at a computer. In the case that news, feature, and editorial writing are filled to the computer capacity, students on the wait-list may be added beyond the limit of four if they are willing to hand write their entry.

1. We will announce results throughout the day. Please make certain a representative from your school is present until results from ALL of your students' events have been announced. Students' papers and a clean copy of each test will be available in brown paper bags in the tab room. Any materials not picked up Saturday can be picked up the following Monday at the school's front desk. If you wish to have materials mailed, there is a \$20 fee that must be paid Saturday. See the tournament director.

SPEECH & DEBATE

Events

We will offer the following events: LD debate, Informative and Persuasive Extemp, Prose, and Poetry. There are no novice divisions and no CX.

Entries

There are unlimited entries in all events except LD. LD is limited to 6 entries per school. We will close entries when we reach room capacity. Students may enter as many events as they choose EXCEPT they may only enter one extemp. We will NOT hold any rounds for students who are late, regardless of cross entry. Cross enter at your own risk! (We MAY open the wait list after registration closes, depending on our confirmed judges).

Judging

Schools will be expected to either bring a QUALIFIED judge to the contest or pay a \$150 judging fee in order to allow for THS to hire a contract judge. All money is used to hire quality judges to ensure quality ballots.

Judging Expectations

School judges must be present FIFTEEN minutes prior to each round (unless they are currently judging) in order to ensure that the tournament runs on time. If a school judge is not present for a judge call - they will have to pay a judge fee of \$150 in order to cover judging for their absence.

Event Rules and Descriptions

Prose and Poetry: UIL rules will apply. Documentation will be checked IF a challenge occurs. The category for Prelims will be Category A, Semis will be Category B. Finals will be readers choice.

LD Debate: the current UIL topic will be used. Please see the UIL website to get the current topic. Prelims will be flighted. Rounds 1, 2 are pre-set. Round 3 is power matched. We're hoping for LD to break to quarterfinals.

Awards

We will give awards for 1-6th place. Debate 5th and 6th will be determined by speaker points. Sweepstakes will be awarded to the top 2 schools. Awards will be presented as events are completed. **Awards will not be mailed to schools that leave before they are announced unless the winning school pays for shipping.**

Drop fees/cancellations/changes

Please expect your school to be billed for the fees should you violate the deadlines for dropping students. We will not charge for substitutions as long as the original number of people entered does not change in the event.