

LIVE DOC

NYSFL State Finals 2025

LD and PF



CURRENT STATUS: Trophies available for pickup in the office.

Updates

Apr 5 6:05 Revised Live Doc to agree with official tournament rules.
Round 5 is a flip both all divisions.

Div	
VLD	Break to 12
JVLD	Break to 16
NLD	Break to 16
VPF	Break to 20
JVPF	Break to 24
NPF	Break to 32

Vital Links and Contacts

‘Front’ page of the Tournament on TABROOM To get to pairings, select pairings and then pick the category from the drop down menu on the right.	https://www.tabroom.com/index/tourn/index?tourn_id=35409
Debate Help Line	tabroom.issues@gmail.com or text 929- 249-1476. Please include your name, the event you are in, the room that you are in, and information about the issue.
Wifi	Wireless Network: DOEGuest Password: NYC\$itevent

Tab Room	Principal's Conference Room
Judge Lounge	Bronx Science Library

General Information

Greetings!

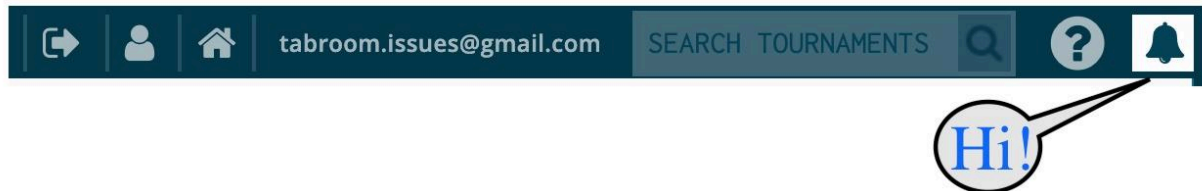
This document is intended to provide the information you will need for the NY State Finals tournament weekend. Please keep in mind that the States tournament is unique in many ways, and that we may be doing things differently than we do at some other tournaments. We expect everyone to be aware of the tournament rules and procedures, which is why we provide this Live Doc. We will be updating it regularly throughout the weekend, showing current tournament status and adding any new information to the UPDATES section at the very beginning. Do check it regularly so as not to miss anything important.

The tournament this year will take place at The Bronx High School of Science. We thank Bronx Science for generously lending us their buildings to conduct the tournament. It is important for everyone to remember the basic rules of engagement in a physical space, to wit, that teachers' desks are not to be used by either students or judges, that all objects/displays/geegaws in a classroom are to be appreciated by sight but not touch, and that no one is allowed in any classroom other than for actual rounds.

The complete [Handbook of Tournament Procedures](#) contains any details not covered here.

Getting Your Assignments

Tabroom.com no longer delivers standard old-fashioned text message blasts. There is now a bell-button on the top right of the tabroom home screen:



It starts out red:



Press it, and it turns green:



This allows tabroom blasts to be sent directly to the device in your hands, bypassing basic text messaging. SET IT UP! (Slightly more detail here if you want it:

<http://www.jimmenick.com/vault/assignments.pdf>)

Debate Schedule

ALL TIMES EDT

(times may be adjusted as necessary)

Friday

Between 4 PM and 7 PM, coaches from schools without any changes should use the online registration check-in on tabroom.com. Do this by logging onto tabroom.com and clicking the online registration button on the dashboard. If you have changes, you should EMAIL those changes to Joe Vaughan at joespeechtabroom@gmail.com during this time block. If you have a special situation and need to talk to Joe, email first to set up a time. All logistical information will be provided in the live docs so please do not ask to call to talk about anything in the live doc.

Saturday - BRONX SCIENCE WILL OPEN AT 8 AM

Rounds will take place at the Bronx High School of Science entirely (75 W205th Bronx, NY). There is parking on W205 Street as well as along Goulden Avenue which runs along the side of Bronx Science. The parking lot is open, but then you will have to walk around to the front of the building

8:30 AM - Announcements in the library for judges at 8:30 AM

9:00 AM - Debate 1 ILD, IPF, NLD, NPF, VLD, VPF

11:00 AM - Debate 2 ILD, IPF, NLD, NPF, VLD, VPF

1:30 PM - Debate 3 ILD, IPF, NLD, NPF, VLD, VPF

4:00 PM - Debate 4 ILD, IPF, NLD, NPF, VLD, VPF

6:30 PM - Debate 5 ILD, IPF, NLD, NPF, VLD, VPF

All prelims are double-flighted. Assignments will be blasted roughly half an hour in advance of the rounds and emailed/blasted. Given the tightness of the schedule, everyone is expected to report immediately to their assigned rooms. Judges without assignments should remain in the Judge Lounge until released.

Sunday

Rounds will again take place at Bronx Science.

The event times below are tentative, depending on final numbers. Please consult the Updates section above for possible changes.

And please note that, according to the tournament bylaws, “Observers in elimination rounds may not use electronic devices during the round.”

LD - These schedules are subject to change based on our capacity with judging to single or double flight

- 9:00 AM - Octas for NLD and ILD, Partial OctaVLD (Double Flighted)
- 11:45 AM - Quarterfinal for all LD (Single Flighted)
- 2:15 PM - Semifinal for all LD (Single Flight)
- 3:15 PM - Final round for all LD

PF

- 9:00 AM - Doubles for NPF, Partial doubles for IPF and VPF (Potentially Double Flighted)
- 11:45 AM - Octas for all PF (Single Flighted)

1:30 PM	- Quarters for all PF
3:00 PM	- Semifinal for all PF
4:30 PM	- Finals for all PF

Topics

Lincoln-Douglas Debate – 2025 March/April Topic

Resolved: The development of Artificial General Intelligence is immoral.

Public Forum Debate – 2025 April Topic

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its investment in domestic nuclear energy.

Speaker Point Scale

We are using tenths of a point.

29.6 - 30 – You would expect this person/team to win the tournament

29.1 - 29.5 – You would expect this person/team to be in late elimination rounds

28.6 - 29.0 – You would expect this person/team to clear

28.1 - 28.5 – This person/team did a solid job

27.6 - 28.0 – This person/team gave an average performance

27.1 - 27.5 – This person/team was below average

26.6 - 27.0 – This person/team did a poor job

25.0 - 26.6 – This person/team was unprepared or unprofessional.
To give points below 25, you must contact the tab staff

Speech Times

LD

First Affirmative Constructive....6 minutes

CX...3 minutes

First Negative Constructive...7 minutes

CX...3 minutes

First Affirmative Rebuttal...4 minutes

First Negative Rebuttal...6 minutes

Second Affirmative Rebuttal...3 minutes

Four minutes prep time.

Round 5 is a flip round.

PF

No flip in first 4 prelim rounds, Pro always goes first. Round 5 is a flip round.

Pro First Speaker (Team 1) ... 4

Con First Speaker (Team 2) ... 4

Crossfire ... 3

Pro Second Speaker (Team 1) ... 4

Con Second Speaker (Team 2) ... 4

Crossfire ... 3

Pro Summary First Speaker (Team 1)... 3

Con Summary First Speaker (Team 2)... 3

Grand Crossfire (all 4) ... 3
Pro Final Focus Second Speaker (Team 1)... 2
Con Final Focus Second Speaker (Team 2)... 2
Prep Time (each team) ... 3

Judging

**ALL LD AND PF JUDGES ARE OBLIGATED FOR ALL
ROUNDS!!**

Overview:

1 judge in EVERY prelim round. In prelims, DO NOT ANNOUNCE DECISIONS OR CRITIQUE. **Do not leave the room until you have entered your second flight ballot.**

3 judges in EVERY elim round. In elims, the last person to decide on the panel MUST announce decisions to the teams after each judge has voted. The chair will see the decision in tabroom after all three judges have voted.

DO NOT START AN ELIM ROUND UNTIL ALL JUDGES ARE PRESENT.

All judges, prelims and elims both, must hit the ACKNOWLEDGE BALLOT button in tabroom upon receipt of their ballots. This tells us that all is fine and the show can go on. Not acknowledging your ballot

can mean anything from the fact that you have wandered off to the Bronx Zoo to the arrival of the plagues of Egypt. Reluctance on your part to immediately press this button will result in a series of texts starting at a gentle reminder and working up to absolute fire and brimstone if one of us has to actually go chase you down.

General Judging Advice

It is the judge's positive responsibility to know about and fulfill assignments. Obviously, setting up your device as noted above is important. But even under the best of circumstances, a notification might go awry for a few minutes. So if you don't get an assignment at the designated time noted on the schedule above, check the pairings to make sure you're clear. And even if you're clear, you may still get a late assignment if someone else doesn't show up. (You can incur fines for your team both if you don't show up for a round as the original judge or if you don't show up as a late sub.) Whatever you do, do not turn off your phone or set up Do Not Disturb. If we're missing someone or need a late sub, we usually try to get in touch with people directly. If we can't get in touch with you...

Before the Tournament

- Update your paradigm. Debaters use judge paradigms to decide how to best adapt to the judge.
- Do you have any standing conflicts with any students from the participating schools? Enter them on the homepage of tabroom.com under **JUDGING**.

Before Rounds

- Be in the judge lounge.
- **CLICK ACKNOWLEDGE BALLOT AS SOON AS YOU ARE NOTIFIED TO LET US KNOW YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE BALLOT.**
- Only the assigned judges may judge the debate. If there's a problem, come to tab.
- If debaters are missing at the start time, send a message to the tab room. Email us or text using the contact information above.

During Rounds

- You should be taking notes in some organized manner because students ought not be bringing up NEW ARGUMENTS in the last speeches of the round. The last speeches (the final focus for PF and the NR and 2AR for LD) should only reference arguments that that student(s) made in earlier speeches.
- Do not bring your own opinions on a topic into the round. In debate, the debaters cannot debate with what is in the judge's head; they can only debate their opponent. The judge is to evaluate the clash of arguments PRESENTED ONLY BY THE STUDENTS IN THAT ROUND. If you disagree with one of the students, that is irrelevant. It is up to the opponent to point out the flaws that may be apparent to you, not your job to do that argumentation for them.
- Students are allowed and encouraged to have their own timing devices. Please communicate with each student about coordinating the start of time. Let the student's start of time be the driving force. Judges should still offer time signals if requested.
- Enter comments on your tabroom ballot between speeches or during prep time
- That's it. **Do not ask questions, answer questions, comment on arguments, or get involved in the debate in any way.**

After Rounds

1. Quickly read any evidence that is crucial to making your decision.
2. Confirm (verbally) that the sides listed on your ballot are correct.
3. Enter points (following the scale on the ballot and above) and a decision (must be one winner and one loser). Tied points are allowed. Low-point wins are not allowed.
4. Confirm decision in tabroom. Write the winning SCHOOL and SIDE in your RFD. DO NOT LEAVE ROOM UNTIL YOUR DECISION IS ENTERED AND CONFIRMED.
5. **THERE IS NO DISCLOSURE: You enter your ballot without discussing anything with the debaters nor, in elims, the other judges.** There should also really be no conversation at all between the judges and students. Comments about the topic or the round by the judges often lend themselves to misinterpretation by the debaters, and can cause mischief later on.

Evidence challenges

The quality of evidence may be a part of the debate. In fact, good debaters do make evidence comparisons. Here is a way to consider the escalation of evidence issues:

1. A debater claims evidence is of low quality, from a disreputable source, uses a flawed methodology, etc. — decide this issue in the course of the debate based on the arguments made by the teams. Read the evidence after the debate if you'd like.
2. A debater cannot produce evidence they read — disregard the evidence in your decision and pretend it was never mentioned
3. A debater alleges that their opponent's evidence is fabricated — this claim would, under NSDA rules, stop the round for the judge to determine win/loss in the debate based solely on the evidence

challenge. Please confirm that this is the team's intent before stopping the debate.

You can consult Tab for help resolving these issues, but we cannot make the decision for you.

Judging Resources & Tutorials

[How to Use and Navigate Tabroom](#)

[Overview of NSDA Campus](#)

[Link to Debate Resources](#)

[Pennsylvania Catholic Forensic League](#)

[New York Catholic Forensic League](#)

[New Jersey Speech & Debate League](#)

Diversity and Inclusion

We at the NYSFL believe that our competition should foster a sense of diversity and inclusion in every way possible, and in order to maintain a streamlined message, we would like to relay NSDA's equity statement:

- The National Speech & Debate Association is committed to modeling and fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion for all speech and debate communities.
- We are continuously transforming our organization to reflect and operationalize the values of equity, integrity, respect, leadership, and service.
- We will take responsibility.
- We will heed, learn, and evolve.
- We will work conscientiously to model and foster an inclusive and equitable speech and debate experience for all.

As a way to prevent problematic incidents from occurring, we highly encourage judges to read through the [“Cultural Competence Training Handout”](#) and watch the “Cultural Competence Training Video” on NSDA’s official website [here](#).

Content Warnings

Content warnings are intended to give speakers, judges and debaters time to prepare their minds for potentially difficult content. It is the position of this tournament that all students should present content warnings prior to the start of the round if there is any chance difficult content might come up. Not doing so should not be construed as a reason to win or lose a debate and should not affect speaker points. Instead, content warnings should be offered in the interests of making speech and debate as comfortable a place as possible for all participants, given the complicated world in which we live.

While some participants might not have any previous experience with content warnings, it is our hope that all students will at least think about

their chosen content and how discussing it might affect others. For students who are unsure if they are reading something that may warrant a content warning, a variety of [sources suggest potential lists](#) of difficult content. Please remember that there is no way to create a fully comprehensive list. If you are unsure about whether a content warning is needed, we recommend that you follow the mantra: when in doubt, give a content warning.

We are constantly in the process of learning, growing, and trying to become more inclusive as a community. We ask that competitors, judges, and coaches use content warnings as teachable moments and not as competitive gain. The last thing anyone wants is the weaponization of an attempt to make competitive debate a more welcoming place. If you believe that there is a question or concern about behavior within a round that must be addressed outside of the round, please stop the debate and contact the tab room.

Ethics

Among the goals of high school debate are the enhancement of students' basic education and the providing of a competitive arena in which to develop important life skills. The very nature of these goals requires that coaches promote an environment of strong, positive ethical behaviors. To aid coaches in this pursuit, some actions that should be avoided, either as clear ethical violations or giving the appearance and/or opportunity for such violations, include the following: communication during a round between debaters and persons not debating; communication during a round between judges; accessing documents during a round to which others also have access (including opponents

sending cases to a team email rather than a debater's personal email); live-streaming a round to outside persons; recording rounds without permission; intimidation of debaters or judges in any fashion; the use of fabricated/misrepresented evidence. While not all-inclusive, this list should provide a starting point as we work together as a community to maintain the benefits of competitive debate for all involved.