

# **Berman Speech & Parliamentary Debate Invitational Co-Hosted by The Practice Space & El Cerrito High March 22, 2025**

## **Live Doc and Updates**

Welcome to the Berman Speech & Parliamentary Debate Invitational! We are glad you are joining us for what should be a fun event! Thank you to all the volunteers, community members, judges, alums, and coaches for making this possible.

This tournament is co-hosted by El Cerrito High and non-profit, [The Practice Space](#), which was founded by former speech and debater and current coach, AnnMarie Baines, to help people of all ages build confidence and elevate underrepresented voices through public speaking education.

This document contains resources, links, and up-to-date information and may change throughout the tournament.

## **Contacts**

AnnMarie Baines, Tournament Director: 510-708-0535  
Tech Help and Assistance: [admin@practice-space.org](mailto:admin@practice-space.org)  
Judge Questions: Ryan Miller in the Library

## **Table of Contents**

[Contacts](#)

[Campus Map](#)

[Live Announcements](#)

[WIFI](#)

[Survey](#)

[Locations](#)

[Logistics](#)

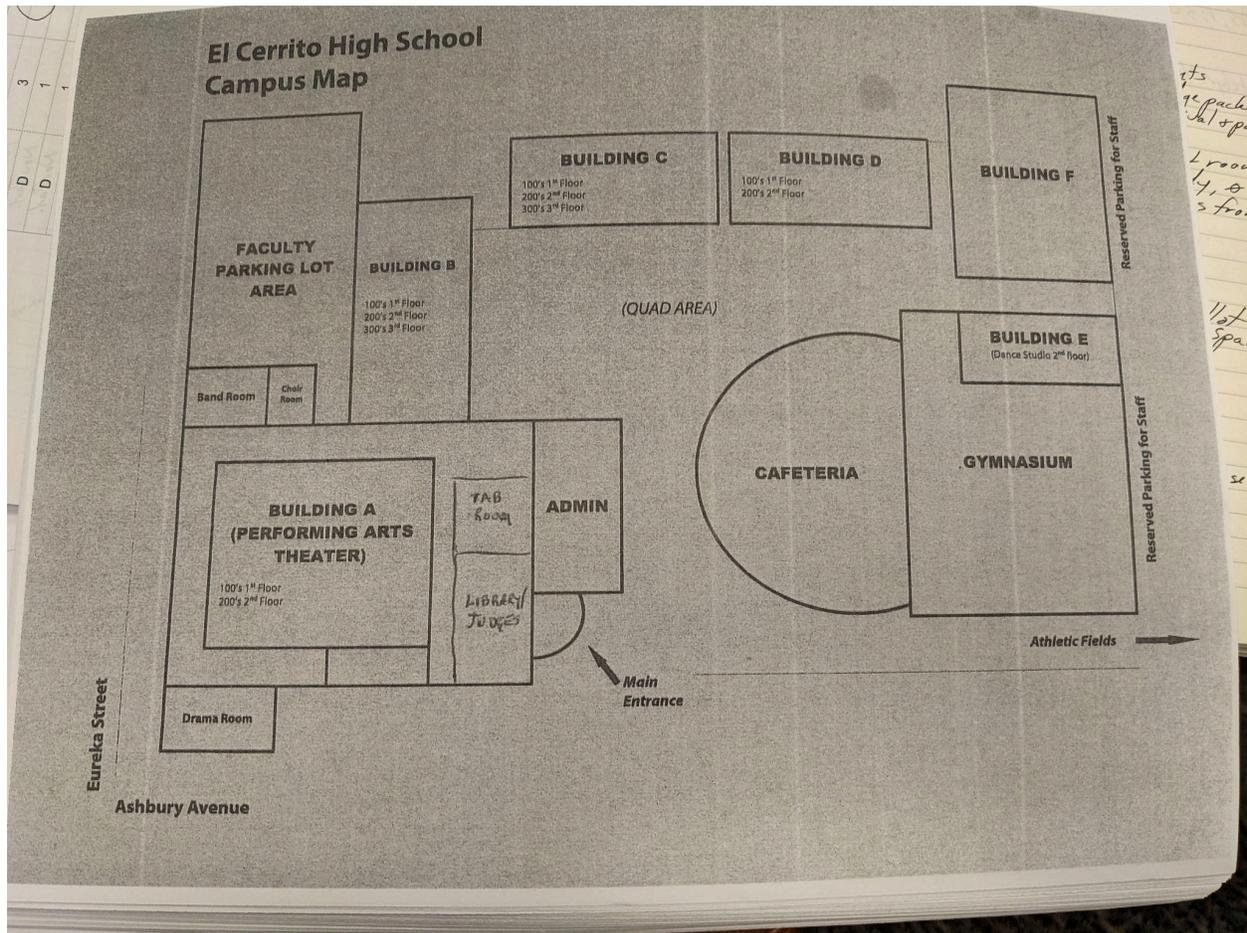
[Schedule \(subject to change\)](#)

[Parliamentary Debate](#)

[Important Resources](#)

[Youth Opportunities & Messages from The Practice Space:](#)

## Campus Map



## Live Announcements

- Awards will be in the Cafeteria at 4:40pm! Please start cleaning up.
- 3:45: PARLI. Novice round 4 prep time starts at 3:55
- 2:25: PARLI- Please see round 4, "Parli Showdown" updates on the topic release. Topic 4:05, start debate at 4:15. Go to rooms asap.
- 1:26: Parli students: If you are in flight 1 in one round, you aren't necessarily in flight 1 in the other rounds – flights get randomly assigned, so make sure you check what flight you are.
- 1:25: Students: Remember, props are not allowed in interp events. The only time that props are allowed is in Dual Improv with Props.
- 1:14: PARLI- R3 prep will be late. Approx at 1:30 pm, or later.
- 12:56: Pattern B Round 2 was just released – please check your Tabroom.

- 12:21: If you were in Open SPAR, we will be giving out those awards during the second awards ceremony. If you have to leave before then, then your coach or another competitor can pick them up. Novice SPAR awards have all been given out during the ceremony!
- 11:20: Please don't tell the students who won (and students, don't ask!). 😊
- 10:37: PARLI- R2F1 prep start time bumped up to 11:15 am.
- 10:01: FYI: If there is a round that is still going on in your room, please wait patiently until speeches are finished. Do not open the doors during someone's speech.
- 9:55: Judges: Please do not give oral comments/critique in the rounds (and don't say who won). Only fill out the ballot, so that we don't fall behind.
- 9:27: Spar Round 2 has been published, please check Tabroom
- 9:23: Apologies Duo - all Duos should be in Room B305
- 8:46: Round 1 has been published – if you didn't get a ballot, please stand by for the next 15 minutes or so to make sure you aren't needed.
- 8:40: Parli topics have been announced! Scroll down for topics below.
- 8:20: Judge training started in the Library!
- 8:05: Welcome to the tournament!
  - Coaches should come to our registration desk in the Library if you have any drops or changes, need to pay, or need to drop off liability forms.
  - Judges and Students do not need to check in (just go straight to the library if you are a judge and straight to the cafeteria if you are a student).

## WIFI

- Network: WCCUSDBYOD

## Survey

- [Link](#) - Please fill out our short exit survey about your experience at our tournament!

## Locations

- Judge Room: Library (2nd floor of main building)
- Student Gathering Place: Cafeteria
- Parli Prep: Cafeteria
- SPAR Awards in the morning: Outside in the Quad
- Awards for everyone at the end of the day: Cafeteria

## Logistics

- Please do not arrive on campus before the 7:45am registration. Parking will be available either in the school parking lot (if gates are open) or in the surrounding residential neighborhood. Parking is limited, so be prepared to walk a few blocks.
- Please **DO NOT EAT IN CLASSROOMS. This is a firm rule.**
- Please use the bathrooms near the Library or the Cafeteria. Other facilities will be locked.
- Please help us make this a low-waste event. We encourage you to bring your own refillable water bottle, and please utilize recycling bins on campus.
- Free food is available for judges, chaperones, and coaches. Food for purchase is available for student competitors in the school cafeteria.

## Schedule (subject to change)

[DETAILED SCHEDULE LINK](#)

## Parliamentary Debate

Refer to the [Berman Parli Webpage](#) for specific rules and judge guidelines. All Parli will be double-flighted. Judges will have to judge both flights.

Round	OPEN Topic	Time Announced	Time Round Begins
R1_F1	Since its founding in 2019, the benefits of creating the United States Space Force have outweighed the harms.	8:40	9
R1_F2	Space exploration is more beneficial when pursued by corporations than by government entities.	9:25	9:45
R2_F1	Kurdish forces in Syria ought to prioritize pursuing an independent Kurdish state over integration with the new Syrian government.	11:15	11:35
R2_F2	Latin American countries ought to prioritize relations with China over the United States.	12:10	12:30

<b>R3_F1</b>	The USFG should pursue a fourth agricultural revolution.	1:54	2:14
<b>R3_F2</b>	The USFG should significantly increase its investment in stratospheric aerosol injection technology.	2:40	3:00
<b>R4 No flight</b>	<p>This House values wealth creation over wealth redistribution.</p> <p>Announcement: Round 4 will be a "Parli Showdown"! Get to your rooms ASAP.</p> <p>10-minute prep time</p> <p>3 Aff - 3 Neg - 4Aff - 4Neg - 2Neg - 2 Aff</p>	4:05	4:15

<b>Round</b>	<b>NOVICE Topic</b>	<b>Time Announced</b>	<b>Time Round Begins</b>
<b>R1_F1</b>	The benefits of space exploration justify its high cost.	8:40	9
<b>R1_F2</b>	This house regrets the rise of space tourism.	9:25	9:45
<b>R2_F1</b>	Economic sanctions on Venezuela ought to be lifted.	11:15	11:35
<b>R2_F2</b>	Developing nations ought to prioritize cultural preservation over globalization.	12:10	12:30
<b>R3_F1</b>	California should ban natural grass lawns.	1:47	2:07
<b>R3_F2</b>	California should require all new housing in California to be built with solar panels.	2:30	2:50
<b>R4 No flight</b>	<p>Gig economy workers ought to unionize.</p> <p>Announcement: Round 4 will be a "Parli Showdown"! Get to your rooms ASAP.</p>	3:55	4:05

	10-minute prep time 3 Aff - 3 Neg - 4Aff - 4Neg - 2Neg - 2 Aff		
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## Important Resources

[JUDGE INSTRUCTIONS PACKET](#)

[SPAR CHEAT SHEET FOR STUDENTS](#)

[TIPS FOR DOUBLE AND TRIPLE ENTERED STUDENTS](#)

## Youth Opportunities & Messages from The Practice Space:

Are you interested in an affordable, high-quality speech and debate camp? If so, registration is open for our two-week [Teen Speech & Debate Camp](#), July 14-25, 10-2pm in our downtown Richmond office. This camp focuses on parliamentary debate and all speech events and is co-led by award-winning coaches Rosie Bultman and AnnMarie Baines.

If you have younger siblings who would be interested in a speech & debate camp, have them sign up for our in-person [Young Speakers Camp](#), June 23-27! We have partial day (10-2) and full day (10-5) options in our Richmond office.

Are you a teen looking for a coaching job this summer? We are currently searching for high school students to be assistant coaches in our elementary school programs this summer (both our Young Speakers Camp as well as school site programs in West Contra Costa). [Apply here.](#)

### Social Media

If you are using social media to capture any part of your experience today, tag us!

- Event Hashtag: #PracticeSpace
- Instagram/Facebook: @practicespaceorg

Special Announcement for Upcoming Tournament: Please consider attending the NYPDL Tournament in Benicia on March 29th – [Registration info is here.](#)