













You are cordially invited to the **2024 Asynchronous Speech Championship!** We know that some students simply cannot participate in national tournaments requiring multiple days of travel and competition. We know the physical demands and the inability to work during those times may make synchronous national competition impossible for some students. ASC exists for everyone to participate, but especially those students who want to see where they land on the national scale in a championship competition but who may not be able to travel or compete in synchronous ways. With a sustainable model and a focus on equity and inclusion, the ASC aims to provide students with a learning and competition space. For the past two years, over 550 entries from 35+ schools competed in each ASC tournament, and we look forward to a continuation of this type of robust competition again this year!

Highlights

-  Competition will be fully asynchronous
-  All 11 IE categories will be offered, with Octofinals, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, Novice Finals, and Open Finals (as dictated by the total number of entries in each category)
-  Content warnings are encouraged to give adequate warning to judges/competitors
-  No late adds are allowed
-  ASC will utilize an honor system for judges and competitors
-  Tiered, equity-focused fee structure
-  Additional fees for uncovered slots or dropped judges
-  Payments accepted by Venmo, PayPal, or by check
-  2024 Video submission date: March 20 @ noon CST
-  Teams are responsible for providing working video links. Judges will be instructed to rank any nonworking links at the bottom of the round.

Full information about competition and fees are listed below. If you have questions feel free to contact Julie Walker by phone (call/text 706-844-2773) or email (outspokenculture@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Julie Walker
ASC Tournament Director
Outspoken Culture, Executive Director

Asynchronous Speech Championship Schedule

March 1 st @ noon CST:	Impromptu Prompts released on Speechwire
March 13 th @ noon CST:	Extemp Prompts released on Speechwire
March 20 th @ noon CST:	Entries and videos due to Speechwire
March 20 th @ 2 p.m. CST:	Entries without video links will be dropped from the tournament
March 20 th @ 3 p.m. CST:	Fees will be assessed and distributed to teams
March 20 th @ 3 p.m. CST:	Judging assignments go live on Speechwire
March 22 nd @ 4 p.m. CST:	Preliminary Round judging feedback/scores due
March 22 nd @ 7 p.m. CST:	Quarterfinal Rounds and Novice Final Rounds announced/released on Speechwire/via live Zoom and Facebook
March 23 rd @ Noon CST:	QF judging feedback/scores due
March 23 rd @ 1 p.m. CST:	Semifinal Rounds announced/released on Speechwire/via live Zoom and Facebook
March 23 rd @ 8 p.m. CST:	SF judging feedback/scores due
March 23 rd @ 10 p.m. CST:	Final Rounds announced/released on Speechwire/via live Zoom and Facebook
March 24 th @ 4 p.m. CST:	Final Round and Novice Final Round judging feedback/scores due
March 24 th @ 6 p.m. CST:	Live awards ceremony stream via Zoom and Facebook
March 25 th @ Evening:	Feedback released to coaches via Speechwire

The tournament will break to Quarterfinals if there are 60 or more entries in an event. In the case where there are over 120 entries in an event, the tournament will release an updated schedule to include information related to Octofinal rounds (top 48).

Entries

A student can enter as many events as they wish, but only once per category. A student may have two Duos, as long as they have different partners. You are encouraged to get your entries in early. All entries are accepted as submitted. Tournament staff will spot check to see if video links are working. It is the team's responsibility to make sure the video links are working. Entries with no video links (including outround LP links) will be dropped from the tournament. Judges will be instructed to rank any nonworking links at the bottom of the round.

Teams should make sure to mark their first-year competitors as novices in the entry form. A novice is defined as a competitor who is within their first 2 semesters of collegiate competition. Novice entries will be competing in the open rounds for prelims, but they may have the honor of earning a spot in the Novice Finals in their category if they do not advance to open outrounds.

Limited Preparation

Students will submit one video of their performance for each category. The exception to this is with Limited Preparation events, where they will submit four videos: two for preliminary round judging and two for out round judging.

Impromptu prompts will be quotations from individuals from underrepresented groups. Extemp questions will be US-Political (Prelim R1 + R2), International-Political (Prelim R3), Economics (OF +QF), Environmental (SF + F).

We trust all students and coaches to adhere to Limited Prep guidelines and ethical competition choices for preparation. Extemp prep does not need to be included in the performance video. However, please include prep time in Impromptu videos (this can make starting the video camera easier for students, and assessing time allocation possible for judging). All Impromptu judges will be reminded to allow an initial 15 seconds for competitors to read the quotations, before beginning time.

Video Submission

Videos of performances should be one take with a single camera without "special effects" (e.g., filters), although visual aids may be presented virtually. Audiences may be present during the filming of speeches. Any edited video will be automatically disqualified.

All video submission links must be put forward through some sort of streaming platform, like YouTube. Set the video to “unlisted” for the duration of the tournament. Following judging, we want students to have control over the visibility of the performances, so students may turn the videos to “private” after the awards ceremony.

Teams should submit a fresh, unique performance video made exclusively for this tournament. Videos should not have been uploaded prior to March 1st, 2024.

Judging

Judges should check in to Speechwire for judging assignments, but efforts will be made to alert judges of their responsibilities if possible. Judges should double-check their email inboxes for notifications from Speechwire.

All ballots and scores must be completed by the deadlines, or schools will be charged a dropped/no show judge fee (\$50). Judges who have not started judging 1 hour prior to the round being due, will be dropped and fees will be assigned to their team. If the judge is from a specific team, students from that team cannot advance into the next out-round until payment plans are made with the Tournament Director.

Each preliminary round will have one judge. All OF, QF, SF, and Novice Final rounds will have a panel of 3 judges, with the exception of Open Final Rounds, which will have 5 judges.

Fees and Payment

Fees will be determined by the size of your entry. There are 3 Divisions: River (1-14 entries), Lake (15-29 entries), and Ocean (open to all). One judge covers 6 entries; there is an Uncovered fee for each entry not covered by a judge (\$15).

Division	Size	Fee	Uncovered Entries
Division 1: Ocean	Open	\$250	\$15
Division 2: Lake	1-20 entries	\$200	\$15

If a judge fails to judge any of their assigned rounds, there is a \$50 fee. See the Judging section of this invitation for more details.

No team with outstanding bills to Outspoken Culture may enter the 2024 Asynchronous Speech Championship. This includes any unpaid invoices from the OATS.







Payment Options		
Check	Venmo	Paypal
Outspoken Culture Attn: Julie Walker 609 South 1 st Street Marshall MN 56258	@outspokenculture	OutspokenCulture@gmail.com

Awards

Awards will be given to all Octo-Finalists, Quarter-Finalists, Semi-Finalists, and Finalists in each Event. The top 6 Novice entries in each Event who have not advanced past open preliminary rounds will advance to a Novice Final Round. There must be at least 10 non-advancing Novice competitors in an event to hold the Novice Final Round in that category.

Individual Sweepstakes Awards will be awarded to the Top 10 students. Team Sweepstakes Awards will be awarded to the Top 10 Teams in each divisions based on entry size.

Sweepstakes awards are earned using the following point system:

-  Prelim Rounds: Rank of 1 = 3 points, Rank of 2 = 2 points, Rank of 3 = 1 point
-  Novice Finalist: 1 point
-  Octo-Finalist (non-advancing): 1 points
-  Quarter-Finalists (non-advancing): 2 points
-  Semi-Finalist (non-advancing): 3 points
-  Finalists: 1st = 15 points, 2nd = 12 points, 3rd = 10 points, 4th = 8 points, 5th = 6 points, 6th = 4 points

Teams will be forwarded a folder of award images suitable for printing or posting to social media platforms. Additionally, Individual Awards for placing in an event will be shipped to each team to distribute to students. All Sweepstakes Award winners (Individual and Team) will be shipped a token honoring their accomplishment. Each outrounder and sweepstakes award winners will also be honored by a donation to a nature-based sustainability project to be announced at the awards ceremony.

Sustainability, Equity, and Inclusion

The ASC hopes to promote more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive practices in forensics. Nationally, the forensic community (students, coaches, and judges) have called for safer tournaments where student and judge wellness is built into the tournament structures. Also, we must realize forensics cannot be sustained by following the models of the past. It is with that in mind that the ASC uses the following policies.

Content Warnings

If a student's performance includes sensitive topic areas they anticipate may be triggering for audience members or judges, we ask you to enter those topics into the content warning space on Speechwire at the time you submit your entries.

Open Door Policy

We acknowledge the art of performance may be a healing process and/or an opportunity to speak on important, personal topics. As a performer, it is impossible to know all the ways in which content or a performance may unintentionally harm or trigger members of your audience. To better serve the wellness of the forensic community, we will be using an open door practice for this tournament.

Judges will be evaluating potentially triggering performances within their home spaces. This means we need to take even more steps to protect their well-being. We strongly urge teams to include content warnings, and if a judge feels concerned about the triggering nature of performances in the assigned round, tournament staff will adjust the judging requirements.

Name Pronunciation

Being called by your correctly pronounced name creates an inclusive, welcoming, respectful space. To aid judges and awards readers, please provide student name pronunciation through Speechwire

Student Integrity Pledge

One of the biggest things we miss from asynchronous tournaments is students watching other performances. OATS tournaments will allow students to watch final round videos after signing a Student Integrity Pledge. The Student Integrity Pledge declaring that the student watching the video will act in an ethical manner. After signing the Pledge, students will receive video links to the final rounds when finals are posted. A link to the Student Integrity Pledge will be posted on Speechwire and distributed through coaches.

Judge Integrity Pledge

Coaches and students value high-quality feedback. Therefore, we request all judges complete the Judge Integrity Pledge prior to completing judging responsibilities for the tournament.

Category Rules

Public Address Events

After Dinner Speaking: An original speech written and performed by the student designed to use humor to assist in developing the thesis of the speech. Audio-visual aids are permitted. Manuscripts or notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Communication Analysis: An original speech written and performed by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc., through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids are permitted. Manuscripts or notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Informative Speaking: An original speech written and performed by the student designed to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual aids are permitted. Manuscripts or notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

Persuasive Speaking: An original speech written and performed by the student designed to change the beliefs, attitudes, values or actions of the audience. Audio-visual aids are permitted. Manuscripts or notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Interpretation Events

Drama Interpretation: A performance of a selection of drama, which is defined as a non-poetic text that has been created to be consumed through performance. The focus of this event is on the development of characterization. This material may be drawn from places such as stage, screen, podcast or other performance realm. No costumes or props are allowed. Presence of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Duo Interpretation: A performance by two individuals of a selection of material from any genre of text. Performance text may be drawn from more than one source. No costumes or props are allowed. Presence of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Poetry Interpretation: A performance of a selection of poetry, which may be drawn from more than one source. Focus of this event should be on the art of language use. No costumes or props are allowed. Presence of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Program Oral Interpretation: A performance of a program of thematically-linked selections chosen from at least two of the three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). Focus of this event should be on the development of the theme. No costumes or props are allowed. Presence of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Prose Interpretation: A performance of a selection of prose material, which is defined as a non-poetic text that has been created to be consumed through reading. Focus of this event is on the development of the narrative/story. No costumes or props are allowed. Presence of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

Limited Preparation Events

Extemporaneous Speaking: An original speech written and performed by the student within a limited time period related to current events. For each round, students will be given three current event prompts. Students will have 30 minutes to select one prompt and prepare a speech in response to the prompt. Speaking notes are permitted. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes.

Impromptu Speaking: An original speech written and performed by the student within a limited time period related to a broad variety of topics. For each round, students will be given one to two prompts which may include quotations, comics, a single word, or other prompts. Students will have 7 minutes to see, select, prepare, and deliver a speech in response to the prompt. Speaking notes are permitted. Students will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. A 15 second grace period will be given to read the prompts prior to preparation time beginning.