



September 6, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

The Berry College Forensics Union invites you to the Autumn in the Mountains XXX forensics tournament to be held on the beautiful campus of Berry College on October 27-28, 2023.

This year's tournament will feature three preliminary rounds of competition in all eleven traditional events, plus Public Narrative Speaking, Impromptu Sales, and Slam Poetry. Offering a variety of non-traditional events represents an attempt to expand the borders of forensic experience and pedagogy even further. We hope that you will give them a try!

Autumn in the Mountains not only features outstanding intercollegiate forensic competition, but it also affords the opportunity to experience one of the most beautiful college campuses in the world. Berry boasts:

- The world's largest campus: 27,000 acres of beautiful Northwest Georgia rolling hills, lakes, woodlands.
- The Martha Berry Museum and Oak Hill Mansion.
- The Ford complex, a collection of English Gothic buildings commissioned by Henry Ford.
- The country's largest overshot water wheel, Swan Lake, Martha Berry's House of Dreams and a number of other treasures on our mountain campus.
- Various deer, skunks, foxes, wild turkeys, geese, swans, BALD EAGLES, extempers and other assorted van mishaps waiting to happen.

Join us for an autumn weekend of forensics excellence set against a backdrop of natural beauty. All roads lead to Rome in late October!

Sincerely,

Matt Delzer
Director of Forensics

Shelby Newland
Assistant Director of Forensics

Autumn in the Mountains XXX

Tournament Schedule

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Registration Krannert Lobby 11:45 a.m. Extemp Draw
12:00 p.m. Flight B, Rd. 1
1:15 p.m. Flight A, Rd. 1
2:30 p.m. Flight C, Rd. 1
3:45 p.m. Flight A, Rd. 2
5:00 p.m. Flight C, Rd. 2

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

8:15 a.m. Extemp Draw
8:30 a.m. Flight B, Rd. 2
9:45 a.m. Flight A, Rd. 3
11:00 a.m. Flight C, Rd. 3
12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Extemp Draw
1:00 p.m. Flight B, Rd. 3
2:45 p.m. Finals A/C
4:15 p.m. Finals B/C
6:30 or ASAP Awards Ceremony

FLIGHTS*

Flight A: Impromptu, Prose, Informative, Public Narrative
Flight B: Extemp, Duo, Persuasion, POI, Impromptu Sales
Flight C: ADS, Rhet Crit, DI, Poetry, Slam Poetry

*Students may enter two events in each flight.

Entry Information

1. The deadline for entry is Tuesday, October 24 at 5pm Eastern.
2. Entry fees are \$10 per event slot.
3. Please provide a qualified judge for every six event slots.
4. Hired judges are available at \$12 per uncovered slot—please bring judges, we prefer your judges to your money!
5. Dropped entries after Wednesday, October 25 at 12pm EST incur a \$10 fee.
6. A dropped judge after the original entry incurs a \$50 fee.
7. Registration is done via SpeechWire.

Tournament Rules

1. Only undergraduate students may compete.
2. Top non-advancing novice will be recognized in each event.
3. A novice is defined as any student in his/her first year of intercollegiate competition. Top non-advancing novice speakers will be recognized in all traditional events.
4. Material used by a given individual prior to the 2023-2024 competitive season may not be used by the individual. (This includes public speeches, interpretive cuttings and **Impromptu** speeches!)
5. School entry in each event is unlimited.
6. Individual Sweepstakes - Pentathlon points will be tabulated using the student's preliminary and final round performance. Speakers will receive three points for a rank of "1", two points for a rank of "2", and one point for a rank of "3" in all preliminary rounds. Final round placement points will be tabulated as follows:
 - 1st place.....6 points
 - 2nd place.....5 points
 - 3rd place.....4 points
 - 4th place.....3 points
 - 5th place.....2 points
 - 6th place.....1 point

7. Sweepstakes – Sweepstakes awards will be given to the top three schools in both open and limited entry divisions. Sweepstakes will be tabulated based on final round placements. Schools will receive the following point values for placement.
- 1st place.....12 points
 - 2nd place.....10 points
 - 3rd place.....8 points
 - 4th place.....6 points
 - 5th place.....4 points
 - 6th place.....2 points

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In an effort to increase equity and fairness, we will include confidential accommodation statements with judge ballot packets. To put it bluntly, we've all had students with a disability or condition that didn't fit within a forensic "norm" receive a well-meaning ballot that ended up being devastating. We would like to provide valuable context to judges without putting the onus on students to self-advocate at the beginning of every round.

Examples of students who may need an accommodation would be students on the autism spectrum who have difficulty making eye contact, students with speech disorders who have trouble pronouncing some words or sounds, or students with physical disabilities who may need a different type of interp book.

To comply with HIPPA and the ADA, accommodation statements will not disclose details of any disabilities or conditions; just like accommodation statements we receive for classroom students, this statement will list what accommodations should be made without divulging too much personal information.

Accommodation statements will remain confidential and will only be seen by the judge for that round. If you have a student who needs an accommodation, please email a brief statement explaining what accommodation you are requesting to our Ballot Table Director Shelby Newland at snewland@berry.edu by Thursday, October 26.

Non-Traditional Events

Slam Poetry

PURPOSE: A memorized, original performance event designed to feature both writing and performance of original performance poetry.

DESCRIPTION: Students write and perform from memory original slam poetry.

RULES:

1. All poems should be original, created and developed by the student.
2. All material should be memorized. Use of a manuscript is not permitted.
3. Introductory material is not necessary or expected. Students may choose to begin with a title.
4. Maximum time limit is 5 minutes.

Public Narrative

Event Rules

Students will share a personal narrative designed to inspire social or political belief and/or invite social or political action. The speech will develop a student's personal story, enhance audience identification with an issue or set of issues, and characterize the urgency of the moment. The speech may be delivered from manuscript, notes, memory or any combination thereof. Maximum time limit: 10 minutes.

Judges should not expect a typical 3-point structure, overt preview, or other organizational devices associated with non-narrative speeches. For more help in understanding Public Narrative, see [What is Public Narrative: Self, Us, & Now](#)

Impromptu Sales

Students will be given a total of 9 minutes to divide between speech preparation and delivery. Students should speak for at least five minutes.

Round 1: Object - Students will be given an object, and their goal is to sell that object to an audience. Students should take the object as it stands. The student may choose to elaborate upon the object, but may not take the object on the metaphorical level. Students may endow the object with qualities, but cannot transform the object into something else (thus, a pen can have special qualities, but a pen cannot turn into a ball).

Round 2: Service - Students will be given a description of a service – a short “fact sheet” of this particular service (for example, you are the proprietor of a dog walking service). Their goal is to sell that service to the audience.

Round 3: Intangible object - Students will be given an object to sell (for example, a car) that they can't physically hold in their hands. They will be given a picture and/or some information about the object. Their goal is to sell that object to the audience. Final: **“Shark Tank” round** - Students will be given either a product or service, and the goal is to convince the audience to invest in that product or service. The round is designed similar to the television show “Shark Tank.” The impromptu sales speech would be the initial presentation to the panel. Unlike the show, the judges won't be negotiating with the contestants for the actual investment. Students, however, may decide what investment they would like the judges to make.

Note: In this round only, judges may ask 1 clarifying question of each contestant at the conclusion of her/his speech. Students may take approximately 30 seconds to respond to the judge.