



Colleagues,

The Speech and Debate Society at the University of Florida, with support from the Speech and Debate programs at the University of Central Florida and the University of West Florida, is excited to invite you and your teams to the Sunshine State Tournament series. We are thrilled to offer a third iteration of the Sunshine State Series. This *completely online tournament* will take place on the weekend of January 17-18, 2025. The tournament will offer IPDA on Friday and 11 AFA NST individual events.

Debate competition will consist of four preliminary rounds and break to quarterfinals. Due to time constraints we will not be able to go beyond 8 advancing competitors. We will offer divisions in IPDA debate as entries allow. Individual events will follow the hyphenated 3x3 schedule to reduce zoom time.

The tournament will be hosted via speechwire.com and entries will be due the Monday prior to competition. All virtual rooms (rounds, central lobby, and awards) will be held via Zoom. While previous versions of the Sunshine State Series have been completely free, for this iteration, we will be assessing a fee for uncovered judges. Please see the tournament regulations below, and we hope to see you early in the Spring!

Sincerely

Amy Martinelli
Director of Forensics
University of Florida
acmart@ufl.edu

Jonathan Conway
Director of Forensics
University of Central Florida
Jonathan.Conway@ucf.edu

Adam Blood, Ph.D.
Director of Forensics
University of West Florida
ablood@uwf.edu

Entry Regulations

Entries: For individual events, there will be limitations to entries in order to accommodate the hyphenated schedule. Each student may enter 3 events total; each school is limited to 3 slots per event. There will only be one pattern of IEs with two prelim rounds and a final (if necessary) to cut down on time spent in front of your computer screen.

Judging Fees: We are trying to offer a tournament with limited fees, so we need to have slightly modified requirements for judging. One judge will cover 6 individual events, and we ask that all schools supply judges that cover their entry. Each uncovered entry will be \$10. As much as we prefer not to, we reserve the right to cut entries prior to the tournament if there is insufficient judge coverage. All entries are due the Monday prior to the start of competition (January 13, 2025).

Individual Event Descriptions:

Limited Prep:

EXTEMPORANEOUS: For each round, contestants will select one of three topics on current national and international events. The contestant will have thirty minutes to prepare a speech on the topic selected. Notes are permissible but should be kept to a minimum. Maximum 7 minutes.

IMPROMPTU: Contestants will receive short excerpts dealing with items of general interest, including political, economic, and social issues. Each contestant will have a total of seven minutes to divide between preparation and speaking. Students should speak for at least three minutes. All contestants in the same section shall speak on the same topic. Maximum 7 minutes.

Platform/Public Address:

PERSUASION: A speech to convince, to move to action, or to inspire on a significant issue, delivered from memory. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

INFORMATIVE: The contestant will deliver an original factual speech on a realistic subject to fulfill a general information need of the audience. Visual aids that supplement/reinforce the message are permitted. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum 10 minutes.

AFTER DINNER: Each contestant will present an original speech whose purpose is to make a serious point through the use of humor. The speech should reflect the development of a humorous comedic effort, not a stand-up comedy routine. The speech must be memorized. Maximum 10 minutes.

RHETORICAL CRITICISM/COMMUNICATION ANALYSIS: Contestants will deliver an original critical analysis of any significant rhetorical artifact. The speaker should limit the quotation of, paraphrasing of, or summary of the analyzed artifact to a minimum. Any legitimate critical methodology is permissible as long as it serves to open up the artifact for the audience. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum 10 minutes.

Interpretation of Literature:

PROSE: The contestant will present a program of prose literature. Original introductory comments and transitional remarks are permitted. Programs may consist of single or multiple selections. Plays are not permitted. Manuscripts are required. Maximum 10 minutes.

POETRY: The contestant will present a program of poetic literature. Original introductory comments and transitional remarks are permitted. Programs may consist of single or multiple selections. Manuscripts are required. Maximum 10 minutes.

DRAMATIC DUO: A cutting from a play, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. This is not an acting event and costumes, props, etc. are not permitted. Presentation must be from manuscript and focus should be off stage. Maximum 10 minutes.

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION: A cutting that represents one or more characters from a play or plays of literary merit. This material may be drawn from stage, screen or radio. Manuscripts are required. Maximum 10 minutes.

PROGRAMMED ORAL INTERPRETATION (POI): A program of thematically linked selections of literary merit, chosen from at least two of the three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/ poetry/ drama). Manuscripts are required. Maximum 10 minutes.

Event Rules and Regulations

Our rules conform to those provided the AFA-NIET on individual events. Competitors may enter up to three events in each flight. All questions regarding violations of rules or other concerns during the tournament should be directed to Dr. Amy Martinelli at acmart@ufl.edu or 352-682-4473.

Quadrathon: As this is an early season tournament, we will be offering Quadrathon instead of the Pentathlon competition available at other tournaments. To be eligible, a competitor must enter four events, with at least one event in each of the three genres (limited preparation, public address, interpretation of literature).

Top Novice: To be eligible for a top novice award, a student must be in the first year of competition. Novice competitors should be declared in submission of the entry and will be confirmed during tournament registration.

Small Entry Adjustment Protocol: If any of the 11 Individual Events has *two or less entries*, we will remove the synchronous rounds, request a recording of the event, and offer asynchronous student feedback. The entry will receive the same sweepstakes points as any other event.

Online Tournament Notes

Below are a few guidelines to judging that we hope to promote at our tournament.

- Students are to be evaluated on the strength of content and delivery in their events. Issues with audiovisual production value should not enter into the evaluation of speakers. Many students will be speaking using whatever recording equipment they have available. We have made each competition round 90 minutes in case there are interruptions in connectivity or online access.

- Some students will deliver their presentation sitting down. We believe that it should be up to the student to determine what is best for them in the situation.
- Some students may have been able to acquire and assemble black books for their interpretation events. Again, we hope to accommodate a wide array of circumstances for students, so this should not positively or negatively affect their evaluation.
- Both competitors and judges should do the best they can to participate using the most reliable technology and internet access they can acquire.
- Competitors and judges should participate from an area that is as distraction-free as possible.
- All participants in the activity should please silence alerts or other audio that can distract a judge or competitor.
- All participants should mute themselves when not speaking.
- E-ballots should, as much as possible, include constructive feedback that both emphasizes the speakers' strengths, as well as actions that could improve their performances.
- While we cannot be together in person, the etiquette for audience members should still be observed. If you are visible on video, either as a competitor/audience member or judge, please be mindful of nonverbal behaviors and possible distractions.

Tournament Schedule

All Times Eastern

Friday (IPDA)	
Time (EST)	Events
10:00am	Check in
10:30am	Rd 1 IPDA Draw (Speak at 11:00)
12:00 am	Rd 2 IPDA Draw (Speak 12:30)
1:30pm	Rd 3 IPDA Draw (Speak 2:00)
3:00 pm	Rd 4 IPDA Draw (Speak 3:30)
5:00 pm	Quarters IPDA
6:15 pm	Sems IPDA
7:30 pm	Finals IPDA
Saturday (Individual Events)	
9:30am	Check-In
10:00am	Extemp Draw 1
10:30am	Round 1
11:45am	Extemp Draw 2
12:00pm	Round 2
2:00pm	FINALS
3:30pm or sooner	Awards

Note that all IE events will take place at the same time.