



PI KAPPA DELTA

The Art of Persuasion, Beautiful and Just

To the Pi Kappa Delta Community and all our forensic colleagues:

It is a distinct pleasure and honor to invite you to the Pi Kappa Delta 2025 National Comprehensive Tournament, March 13-16, 2025 at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Hotel information is available on the Pi Kappa Delta Website. We suggest teams book early.

The National Council of Pi Kappa Delta and our local host, Jennifer Talbert at Ohio University, have been working tirelessly to plan a wonderful tournament that embraces the Pi Kappa Delta ideals of pedagogical competition in a healthy and welcoming environment.

This year's NCT will feature a four-day tournament schedule that supports comprehensive forensic activity in both debate and individual events. In addition to the traditional slate of forensic individual events, we will offer events unique to Pi Kappa Delta including Editorial Impromptu, Interviewing, To Honor, and asynchronous Podcasting, Student Scholarship, and Extemporaneous Commentary. We will also offer supplemental events for students who do not advance to elimination rounds. More information on these events is included in this invitation.

We look forward to seeing you in Athens in March!

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Accommodations

We recommend booking reservations early— hotel information is available on our website: www.pikappadelta.net

III. Procedures, Policies, Practices

Our “Policies and Procedures” document and bylaws are undergoing changes; we have convened a number of committees, sought external guidance and analyzed the results from our massive DEIBA survey. We will redistribute those documents in early 2025; but here are a sample of changes made based on member responses:

- A DEIBA Task Force Table at Registration will double-check entry names and pronunciation, hear concerns about accessibility, and provide the space for students, coaches and alums a new space to be heard - conversations, written feedback, etc.
- Name Tags. Once a traditional part of PKD practice, we are reintroducing them and encouraging participants to provide pronunciations and pronouns.
- We have always encouraged members to remit tournament/convention needs regarding individual accommodations to the Tournament Director. Because “reasonable accommodation” means a lot of things to a lot of people, we are asking members to consider more broadly all available means to enhance the experience for themselves and students while at PKD-related events. Please reach out ASAP to ensure we can fully address your needs prior to the tournament.
- New Impromptu/Extemporaneous/Editorial Impromptu practices will ensure each are in buildings close to the Help Desk. For Impromptu, (1) a centralized individual will be on hand to distribute prompts in ADA-compliant font and script; (2) a change for better ADA inclusion requires that time does not begin until either a *mandatory :20 reading time* or a verbal cue is issued by competitor.
- The Council will empower an additional step in topic review—a DEIBA Reader Committee –who will create criteria for limited preparation and debate topics to ensure they reflect the Mission/Vision statements.
- PKD has replaced the generic Title IX requirements with a more active statement of ethics. All participants in Biennial-related events will be asked to review and sign our Code of Ethical Conduct prior to attendance. This will help apply a more equitable set of standards and practices at the tournament/convention.

Tournament Structure

Except for the asynchronous events, all competition will be live and in-person as per the schedule listed below. Our three online events (e.g., Podcasting, Student Scholarship,

Extemporaneous Commentary) are open to both those unable to travel to actively participate in other PKD events, and to competitors joining us for in-person competition.

Eligibility

As a reminder, PKD does not use a season-long qualification process—making this an excellent opportunity for all students to compete at a national tournament regardless of what their 2024-2025 season has looked like thus far.

Each competitor must be an undergraduate student in good standing who has not completed eight semesters of forensic participation; none shall have attended any collegiate national forensic tournament for four years prior to the current year.

To become (or renew) membership: click “Join Now” on the PKD website (www.pikappadelta.net); select “Undergraduate Member” from the drop-down menu, and then follow the listed steps.

Each participant must be a PKD member or have filed an application for membership with the national office prior to the start of the tournament.

Each individual member should complete their membership application online because they will be asked to select a username and designate a password. At the end of the process, they select an option on the payment screen. Coaches can pay for a number of memberships in one payment (check/credit) by selecting “pay by check” on the payment screen and requesting a payment link via email from ablood@uwf.edu or 417-437-1437.

Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, Belonging and Accessibility

Creating an inclusive and safe space for all participants is a top priority for Pi Kappa Delta. In addition to those new processes outline above, we commit to policies as written in PKD’s Constitution:

Discrimination Policy:

Article II.201 Pi Kappa Delta is committed to assuring equal opportunity to all persons, regardless of race, color, religious creed, national origin, physical ability status, age, economic status, gender, sex or sexual orientation. Pi Kappa Delta is opposed to all forms of discrimination and seeks to establish a tolerant atmosphere in which every individual is accorded respect. Mindful of the importance of First Amendment freedoms, Pi Kappa Delta reminds its members of their ethical obligations to audience members and encourages members to refrain from disrespectful or derogatory speech. As an organization dedicated to fostering the development of functional leadership skills, Pi Kappa Delta

encourages the participation of individuals from traditionally under-represented groups. Pi Kappa Delta is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Compliance Officer/Ombudsperson:

Article VI.601 Practices and Procedures Committee. It shall be the function of this committee to uphold Pi Kappa Delta's Statement on Discrimination. The Compliance Officer appointed by the President of Pi Kappa Delta and approved by the National Council will chair this committee. This committee will be responsible for investigating charges of discrimination and recommending appropriate action, if necessary, to the National Council. This committee must maintain the confidentiality of all involved to the maximum extent possible in order to conduct a fair and thorough investigation.

The Pi Kappa Delta Code of Conduct. In compliance with Article II.201, PKD will issue a new Code of Conduct to replace its previous Title IX requirements. This document will be vetted by many PKD members and external consultants—to be made available prior to competition. In order to provide the most fair, equitable, and inclusive environment, respecting the Pi Kappa Delta motto of “The Art of Persuasion: Beautiful and Just,” all participants in any PKD-sanctioned event will agree to it. The term “Participant” includes all competitors, performers, judges, coaches, volunteers, observers, and tournament staff. This year, we will allow one representative from each program to sign on behalf of their entire team via this [digital form](#).

Ombuds. The President of PKD, in compliance with Article VI.601 will appoint an ombuds to serve as tournament/convention. They will remain anonymous; but can be reached at ombudspkd@gmail.com.

DEIBA Reader Committee. To more closely align tournament practice with its discrimination policy, the President of PKD will appoint a reader to vet competition-related documentation (e.g., impromptu prompts, extemporaneous questions, Parliamentary debate resolutions, etc).

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These and other tournament/convention processes will be outlined in the updated PKD Policies and Procedures document on www.pikappadelta.com.

Violations of PKD’s policies will be reviewed by the Ombuds/Compliance officer and processed in accordance with our policies and procedures; contact information for the Tournament Ombuds will be provided at the Tournament and Convention for all teams to register their concerns/complaints.

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Though without permanent grounds, Pi Kappa Delta has nonetheless benefited from policies—historical and ongoing—that

disenfranchise indigenous populations. Our responsibilities as an academic nonprofit are multifold. First, we recognize this dispossession at the lands on which our tournaments occur. Second, recognizing the experiences of our native members and fellow citizens is essential as our organization continues to collectively engage and improve relationships, garner new community partnerships and further our collective project to advance an *ethics of persuasion*. We are thanking to OU for providing the following statement (available in a [fuller version](#)):

“The Southeastern Ohio region was at one time a convergence zone of some 40 tribes, including the Mingo, Erie, Lenape, Wyandot, and Miami people, as well as others that shared in the rich hunting grounds and relative safety that these lands provided. It became the traditional homelands of the Shawnee peoples as well as the Wahzhazhe (Osage) nations.

In 1795, after at least a decade of war with the United States, leaders from a dozen sovereign nations were forced to sign the Treaty of Greenville, which ceded lands comprising most of eastern, southern, and central Ohio to the U.S. government. A confederacy of tribes, united under the great Shawnee leader Tecumseh, continued to resist U.S. aggression until 1815, when they were eventually forced from Ohio, including lands currently occupied by Athens, Ohio University, and this exhibit. Many Shawnee, meanwhile, remained on reservation land in Ohio until 1831, when they were finally compelled to emigrate to Native American Territories west of the Mississippi River. The final Ohio tribe to be removed was the Wyandot in 1843.

Nevertheless, more than 200 years later, people from a broad array of Indigenous cultures continue to call this land home and have contributed significantly to the local, national, and international study of humanities.”

Pi Kappa Delta will attempt to honor these histories and work against the pervasive and insidious effects of settler colonialism.

PKD Membership and Fees

All students participating in this tournament must be members of Pi Kappa Delta. Membership is \$50 (process outlined in previous section above). Similarly, all schools participating must be members of Pi Kappa Delta in good standing. Membership fees are as follows, depending on when memberships are submitted and paid:

Before Feb. 12 \$100.00 *After Feb. 12 or at Registration \$150

All chapter dues and student memberships must be paid prior to a chapter registering for the tournament. ***Those not in good standing will have entries dropped prior to the start of tournament/convention. ALL ENTRIES ARE PLACED***

ON THE WAITLIST UNTIL THEIR MEMBERSHIP STATUS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.

Payments may be processed via the website at www.pikappadelta.net through “Join PKD.”

- Or: For credit card payments, send an email request directly to ablood@uwf.edu. You will receive a payment link to enter your credit card information securely.)
- Or: Check payments should be received prior to the tournament and should be sent to:

Pi Kappa Delta c/o Adam Blood
11000 University Pkwy
Building 36/Room 124
Pensacola FL 32514

Entry Fees

Participation Fee: Each person (including coaches & judges) attending the tournament will be assessed a participation fee to subsidize food and beverage costs for multiple hospitality events throughout the tournament.

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| ● Participation Fee | \$10.00 |
| ● School Fee | \$20.00 |
| ● Individual Event Entries (per slot) | \$11.00 |
| ● Supplemental Event Entries (per slot) | \$5.00 |
| ● Unflighted Debate (NPDA, LD) | \$65.00 |
| ● Flighted Debate (IPDA) | \$37.00 |

The following are in addition to the above fees...

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| ● Uncovered IE | \$15.00 |
| ● Uncovered Unflighted Debate | \$120.00 |
| ● Uncovered Flighted Debate (per entry) | \$70.00 |

Late Drop Fees

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| ● After February 19 - per drop | \$ 10.00 |
| ● After February 26 - per drop | \$ 20.00 |
| ● After March 5 - per drop | \$ 30.00 |
| ● At Registration (March 12) - per drop | \$ 50.00 |
| ● Late Fee for Registrations | \$100.00 |

Pi Kappa Delta Grants

Pi Kappa Delta is proud to offer grants for schools in need of financial assistance to attend our tournament. These grants can cover the cost of *fees only*. To apply for a grant, please send the [grant application](#) form to Dr. Adam Blood (ablood@uwf.edu) by **February 12th, 2025**. The grant application form is also available on the Pi Kappa Delta Website.

Tournament Entry and Change Deadlines

There will be no charge for name changes. Other uncovered and penalty fees will be assessed as a means of helping to ensure an efficient and accurate tournament. Once fees are assessed, no refunds for any portion of fees will be provided.

Tournament entries are submitted via **Speechwire.com**. To enter go to **Speechwire.com** and find *Pi Kappa Delta – 2025 Biennial*. Instructions follow. Schools **must** enter in this manner.

- Tournament entries must be received by Thursday, Feb. 12th. For problems, contact Dr. Jessica Furgerson at jessica.furgerson@uc.edu or (210) 854-7967.
- All changes should be made by 5:00 pm Central Standard Time on Feb. 18th to avoid excessive drop fees. Changes can be made online.
- All **changes on/after March 5: email directly** to jessica.furgerson@uc.edu.
- A chapter canceling their entry after March 5 will be obligated for full fees assessed as of their time of dropping from the tournament unless otherwise approved by the Tournament Director and PKD President.

Tournament Director's General Notes:

1. Names *and their pronunciation* are important; please utilize [Speechwire's pronunciation tool](#)!
2. All participants will be addressed by their preferred name. Any student who feels theirs is or will be misrepresented—or wishes to change theirs independently—is encouraged to do so by reaching out to Dr. Furgerson. Our DEIBA Table at Registration will be available to discuss or double-check concerns related to treatment at PKD-related events.
3. If students, judges or general participants have concerns about accessibility at the tournament or other PKD-related events, we encourage them to reach out to Dr. Furgerson for accommodations.

Judges

All competing chapters are expected to provide qualified judges to cover **a minimum of 50%** of their entries. A chapter must provide...

- *One judge for every **EIGHT** individual event entries*
- *One judge designated solely for Persuasion Works asynchronous events.*
- *One judge for every **TWO** NPDA, or LD entries*
- *One judge for every **THREE** IPDA entries*

****Schools must cover 50% of their entry in each format of debate (not all debate entries combined). Ex. If a school has four NPDA, two IPDA, and two LD entries, it would need to provide two NPDA judges, one IPDA judge, and one LD judge.****

A judge may cover both individual events and debate events in the following combinations:

- *Individual events, Reader's Theater, and half of any debate entry*
- *Individual events & one-full debate entry as outlined above*

General Judging Notes:

1. Teams utilizing judges to cover both debate and IE entries are consenting to a full day of judging—although we will do our best to give those judges rounds off in appreciation of their service, we cannot make this guarantee.
2. Debate judges are obligated one round beyond the point their students are eliminated. All IE judges are obligated for the first elimination round.
3. Judges should possess a degree or have experience as a forensic judge. We will not consider current undergraduate students regardless of experience unless they have maximized their eligibility to compete. We highly recommend that judges are at least one-year removed from competition.
4. Because of IPDA's Constitution, those debates may utilize undergraduate judges. This will be the only event in which rules on judges' qualifications will be exempted. Any undergraduate judge must be approved by the tournament director. Undergraduate judges may not be entered as competitors in any tournament event—including async.
5. Judges will be considered for events in categories of entries corresponding to their school's entry (i.e. they will be entered in individual events if entered in IEs; in the debate pattern in which their students compete).

A limited number of hired judges will be available; requests for hired judges should be made through the Tournament Director. Hired judges are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Chapters relying heavily on hired judges will be allowed to enter students only insofar as they are available. Chapters in this situation should contact the Tournament Director immediately.

Asynchronous Judging

Each school with entries in the asynchronous events must designate a judge as per the guidelines listed above (all are IEs—one judge will cover 8 entries). Schools may use an on-site judge to meet this requirement; though PKD recommends engaging alumni, school officials and other, non-attending dignitaries, to complete these obligations.

To start or renew an alumni chapter, please reach out to Dr. Adam Blood (ablood@uwf.edu).

The following guidelines will apply to the designated judge:

- Async judges will have the duration of the preliminary competition (Mar. 13-16), to complete their assigned commitments. Judging ends Saturday, Mar. 15 @ 5pm.
- Depending on the size of the events, judges will receive 1-3 rounds of competition.
- On-site judges who are designated for async rounds will still be responsible for completing their in-person rounds.

Cross Entering and Double Entry

Every effort has been made to include a wide variety of events within a schedule that is humane and limited to four days of competition. Because of our commitment to honor comprehensive forensics with an extensive slate of events, limitations on the degree to which a student can cross between individual events and debate are necessary.

Students may enter:

- Two individual events in any flight
- Two duos, with different partners and each duo counting as an event
- Individual Events and Reader's Theatre
- Individual Events and any debate format
- Reader's Theatre & ONE flight of Debate w/ALL cast members in the same flight

Sweepstakes and Awards

Team Sweepstakes awards will be in Debate, Individual Events, Combined and a Community-College Division.

1. *Debate Sweepstakes (LD, IPDA, NPDA):*
 - a. Top 36 debaters – team events would count as 2 debaters
 - b. 3 Points per Prelim Win
 - c. 5 Points per Elim Win
2. *I.E. Sweepstakes (IMP, INFO, PRO, DUO, EXT, PER, POI, ADS, CA, DI, POE):*
 - a. Top 3 in Each Event in Prelims; First = 3, Second = 2, Third = 1
 - b. All Elimination Round Participants; 3 points for appearing in showcases
3. *PKD Only Events/Experimental Events (Readers Theater, Interviewing, Spanish Language Events, Extemporaneous Commentary, Editorial Impromptu, Podcasting, Student Scholarship, To Honor):*
 - a. Top 15 Entries
 - b. Interviewing (only prelims occur): First = 8, Second = 6, Third = 5, Fourth = 3, Fifth = 2, Sixth = 1
 - c. Spanish Language Events or other similar event (including asynchronous events): Prelim Points First = 3, Second = 2, Third = 1
4. *Combined Sweepstakes:*
 - a. Total score from Debate Sweepstakes
 - b. Total score from I.E. Sweepstakes
 - c. Total score from PKD Only/Experimental Events

Individual Awards - Tournament

All elimination round participants in debate and individual events (including online events) will receive awards based on their final placing in the event. Speaker awards will also be presented in each of the debate events.

Individual Sweepstakes: Students entered in five or more events are eligible for an Individual Sweepstakes award. In determining these awards, only the student's best 5 slots in preliminary rounds will be considered. Students must compete in at least two genres (debate, public address, oral interpretation, limited preparation) to be eligible.

1. Contestants earn 3 points for each first place; 2 points for each second place; and 1 point for each third place rank received in the three preliminary rounds.
2. In debate, contestants earn 3 points per preliminary round win.
3. In the event of a tie in Individual Sweepstakes, the tie-breaking procedure will be:
 - a. Number of first place rankings;
 - b. Number of debate wins;

- c. Number of second place rankings;
- d. Number of third place rankings.

Event Rules and Requirements

The rules and requirements for each event will be regulated by the [Unified Rules and Events Descriptions](#) of Pi Kappa Delta. Accessibility and Inclusion initiatives from Pi Kappa Delta will receive consideration before enforcing rules implemented by other forensics bodies (NPDA, IPDA, NFA-LD, AFA, Phi Rho Pi, etc.).

Flight Patterns

- A. Impromptu, Informative, Prose, Spanish Language Events, Interviewing
- B. Duo, Extemp, Persuasion, Program Oral Interpretation, To Honor
- C. After Dinner, Communication Analysis, Dramatic, Poetry, Editorial Impromptu

(Async Events: Podcasting, Student Scholarship, Extemporaneous Commentary)

To Honor Forensics Pi Kappa Delta is pleased to re-introduce the “To Honor” event. This year’s topic area: 2025 marks the 112th year of Pi Kappa Delta, and the 100th year of the high school speech organization, NSDA. Now into our second century of organized college forensic activity, how can we use this legacy to make forensics better in the future?

Unlike other individual events, results in this event will be based on only three ballots. A different presentation will be given in each round as follows:

Round 1: Impromptu: Speakers will present an impromptu speech based on selected quotations from public address and literature dealing with issues of scholarship and intellectual discovery. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes to prepare and speak. Limited notes are permitted.

Round 2: Speakers will inform the audience about a significant example of public address that highlights issues relevant to forensics, including the value of persuasion or civil discourse. The public address can be from any field, time period, nation, or setting. The purpose of the speech should be historical in that the audience should learn about the speaker, audience, occasion, message, and impact of the address. Notes and/or audio-visual aids are permitted. Time limit is a maximum of 10 minutes.

Round 3: Speakers will present a thematic program of selections from prose, poetry, and/or drama dealing with any aspects of scholarship and discovery, including the

process of, benefits of, etc. The presentation must be from a manuscript. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including an introduction.

Spanish Language Interpretation/Platform: A student will perform ANY selection of interpretation or platform predominantly in Spanish. The length of this event is 10 minutes (with introduction). Contestants will be judged on their performance in Spanish. The aim of this event is to allow competitors to compete in the language they prefer and to celebrate their Spanish-speaking abilities. As such, translated literature is acceptable. Use of a manuscript is required for interpretation. Manuscripts are not encouraged in platform.

Spanish Language Impromptu: Similarly, students who wish to participate in a Spanish-language limited preparation event may do so. The 7-minute event follows traditional AFA rules; students receive a quotation in Spanish. Students may enter up to two Spanish-Language events; however, they all take place during Flight A and should plan accordingly with regards to the other events. Note the new PKD-specific rule for Impromptu events this year: time does not begin until either a *mandatory :20 reading time* or a verbal cue (e.g., “I’m starting”) is issued by the competitor.

Interviewing: Rounds 1 and 2 will consist of an interview lasting no longer than 10 minutes conducted by the judge utilizing the same question-set for each competitor. Round 3 will have judges evaluate and rank student resumes based on their résumé-writing techniques and the overall strength of their résumé. A rubric will be provided to all judges who participate in the résumé-critique round.

Competitors entered in Interviewing must provide an accessible link to their resume (either Google Doc Dropbox or other similar option) of their résumé by registration. Please double check the permissions settings on document links to ensure judges are permitted to view the document.

Editorial Impromptu: Students will receive a short editorial (ideally 3-5 paragraphs) and develop a response. Participants will be allocated nine minutes to divide between preparation and speech time. Speakers must speak for at least five minutes. Limited notes, prepared in the round, are permitted. Judges will provide time signals

Reader’s Theatre: Reader’s Theatre is the interpretation of literature by a group of oral readers who act as a medium of expression for an audience. While Reader’s Theatre is both oral and visual, the emphasis is on oral interpretation of the printed word and its resultant effects on the minds, emotions, and imaginations of the listeners/viewers. The audience should have the feeling of a unified whole in which each performer at all times contributes to the total effect desired. The time limitation for the performance is 25 minutes. An additional two minutes shall be allowed for both set-up and takedown of

material. Reader's Theatre entries must include 3-14 participants. Students may not enter more than one reader's theatre. Programs (handouts) are *not* permitted.

Mechanics of Presentation are Limited as Follows:

1. The audience must have a sense of production being interpreted from a manuscript. Director, performer, and judges should be allowed freedom to exercise artistic, interpretive judgment; however, manuscripts must be used during the presentation.
2. Suggestions in contemporary or ensemble dress may be used. The literature should determine the nature of this suggestion, although costuming should not be a focus of the presentation.
3. Reading stands, chairs, stools, ladders, platforms, steps, props, and/or lighting effects may be used. However, the limitation of facilities (space, time, equipment, etc.) should govern a director's concept.
4. Readers may sit, stand, or both; they may move from one reading stand or locale to another so long as the movement is consistent with the ideas or moods of the literature and the director's concept.
5. Music/sound effects, recorded or live, are acceptable as background accompaniment and part of the context.
6. A performer whose sole function is to play a musical instrument on or off stage will be counted in the total number of performers.

Supplemental Events:

At this year's NCT, we will offer a second tier of competitive opportunities for students eliminated from the traditional events. They represent each genre of competition: Debate/Limited Prep (Congress), Platform (Public Narrative) and Slam Poetry (Interpretive). See rules below.

Individuals who *do not advance in ANY* of their original events are eligible to participate in supplemental events. Students may enter in either Student Congress OR Slam Poetry/Public Narrative but *not* both. Students may enter both Slam Poetry and Public Narrative. Please keep in mind the following:

- You must register for supplemental events at the time of registration for the tournament. Onsite registration for these events will NOT be available; fees will be assessed regardless of entry's participation. (This is essential as trophies and other costs will have already accrued.)
- You may register for these events without adding in a competitor name so that the slot may be utilized by any non-advancing competitor on your roster.

Students who are registered for a supplemental event that advance to elimination rounds will automatically be dropped from their supplemental event(s).

Student Congress: Each session will be divided into chambers of no more than 18 students each. Sessions will be no longer than two hours each. Parliamentary procedures, as outlined in Robert’s Rules of Order, will be followed. Speakers are ranked/rated by judges on their speaking and advocacy skills, as well as their understanding and use of parliamentary procedure. Additionally, a top legislator will be selected via peer voting for each chamber. Schools may submit ONLY ONE piece of legislation by March 1 st. Submissions must be made to Dr. Jessica Furgerson at jessica.furgerson@uc.edu.

Slam Poetry: For each round, students are to perform an original spoken-word poetry—not exceeding five minutes. Each preliminary round must be a different, single poem. Those advancing to finals select which to perform. No manuscripts are allowed.

Public Narrative: An original public narrative (not to exceed 10 minutes) utilizes personal experience for an audience-centered purpose. It features the development of a story in full (beginning, middle, end) while creating clear connections to, with and through audience. Manuscripts/note cards are optional: . For more information, consult this website:

www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/Public%20Narrative%20Participant%20Guide.pdf

Asynchronous Events:

All participants must be active PKD members, though do not have to attend the 2025 Tournament in Athens, OH. Sweepstakes eligibility varies. Student entries will be digitally paired against other participants in three rounds of competition (resulting in at least three ballots).

In addition to entering participants via Speechwire, the process for entering *all* asynchronous events includes:

- Students record and upload video submissions independently. (We recommend using sites with easy-to-share options such as YouTube & Vimeo. Google/Dropbox accounts also work—ensuring the link shared on speechwire.com is accessible/viable and not password protected.)
- Video submissions *open* on speechwire.com, Mar 1, 2025 at 12:00pm EST.
- Video submissions *close* at 10:00pm, March 12, 2025.

1. Extemporaneous Commentary, “Forensics in the Real World” Edition (Asynchronous; Sweepstakes Eligible):

In a speech not to exceed 7-mins, participants conduct research and record a speech that proposes reform and responds to the following question:

Given the current state of political persuasion in the world, what specific roles and responsibilities should collegiate forensics/debate take in the broader political landscape?

Because this topic is wide-ranging, it is up to participants to define the central concerns/problems and their reasonable solutions/implementation. Here are some thematic recommendations for participants to consider while thinking through possibilities for reform: civic discourse and engagement, socio-economic concerns, freedom of speech; teaching transferable skills, effective or pragmatic advocacy; the role of students, forensics organizations, coaches, etc.

We encourage students to think broadly—not all solutions are necessarily national or international; speeches and solutions can be local, relational, social, communicative and/or economic efforts to inculcate productive change. They can be practical or abstract! There is no specific organizational structure for this speech. In fact, we encourage participants to break out of conventional speech patterns and be creative with arrangement. Ask: what format will *best* represent my arguments and evidence?

Judging Criteria Includes: Substance of Proposal / Viability – Proof of Solvency
Feasibility of Plan / Clarity in Explanations and Advocacy

2. Student Scholarship (Asynchronous; Sweepstakes Eligibility Varies):

In order to foster new critical and scholarly opportunities for our students, we are offering a new, two-part competition. The first part welcomes students from all academic traditions. Students interested in taking their Communication, Forensics or academic work from similar disciplines should consider the second as well.

Part I: Turning Academic Research into Public Presentations (Sweepstakes Eligible):

Because it is often difficult for publics to understand research, students competing in the first part of competition will think through the process of **academic translation**. Participants will take research they have already conducted for a class, fellowship, research experience or internship (among many other possibilities!) and present it in a public-facing speech, not to exceed 10 minutes.

There is no preferred organizational structure; however, there are three required elements: (1) a thesis statement or proposed question/hypothesis; (2) an explanation of methodology (e.g., qualitative, quantitative, humanities); (3) principle results.

Judging will reward unique attempts to communicate research. As a pre-recorded event, participants may use presentational software and perform in non-traditional manners (including, but not limited to: place, dress and stance). Participants should ask: *What is the most effective way to communicate this information to a public audience?*

Part II: Critical Feedback (Not Sweepstakes Eligible): A subcommittee of the National Council has agreed to receive copies of student scholarship (in the form of research papers and essays) for additional feedback from scholars in the fields of Communication Studies and Forensics. Further, our current and future Editors of *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta*—our peer-reviewed journal—will consider top papers for inclusion in future publications. Submissions must be sent to PKD Editor Scott Jensen by March 1: jensensc@webster.edu.

3. Podcasting (Asynchronous; Sweepstakes Eligible):

As technological regimes change, education and competition should respond to new innovations. Radio and television remain viable forms for accessing information, but this is quickly changing. In 2022, 424 million people listened to a podcast of some sort (Sullivan, 2023)—representing a 75% increase since 2018. Whereas “niche” can be anathema to traditional media, podcasting often rewards specialty concepts. Such “long tail markets” can often turn niche interests into an economic boon.

In this new event, students can—alone, together, or in a team!—showcase their talents while creating a *pitch* for their podcasts. Awards will be provided to entries *not* individuals. Schools may submit multiple entries. Students may participate in more than one podcasting entry—even cross-collaborating across campus!

Ever wanted to start one, but needed the motivation to get going? We hope this event helps inspire you!

Three essential elements are necessary for success in podcasting (i.e., the trailer, guest interview and edited segment). Students will have a single 10-minute block of time in which to stitch together their three elements and submit a single, *audio-only* file.

1. The Trailer - successful podcast trailers should effectively do three things: (1) introduce the topic of the podcast in a compelling way, using their own voice. No props or sound effects (or any extraneous production) other than those made by the speaker’s voice are permitted. Remember: hook but never spoil the show! (2)

Speaker should make clear the reason and necessity for their podcast; and (3) provide a “narrative arc” for the season/series.

2. The Guest Interview - participants conduct an original interview with one or more individual(s). It should make clear who is participating and why.
3. Edited Segment - students will then provide a final “clip” of their podcast. It may feature elements from both the trailer and interview. It should be representative of the style and flow of a typical podcast episode from the series.

The elements above can be scripted or improvisational, episodic or serial, fast-paced or a slow-burn. Choices, number of participants, subject matter and ultimate audience is entirely up to the participant(s).

The time balance for all three (trailer, interview, edited segment) is also up to the participants. We encourage students to be strategic about divvying up time and to remember: all three sections need to be edited together and submitted as a single audio-only file *not to exceed* ten minutes!

Students can include transitions, but it is not required. Judges will assess the presentation’s coherence and viability while offering comments on speech fluidity, engagement and talent. If podcast is in a language other than English, it will be necessary to additionally provide translated captions.

	THURSDAY MARCH 13
9:00	Registration
10:30	Student/Alumni Caucus
	Judge Training (All coaches and judges are required to attend).
12:00	IE Flight A Round 1 (IMP, INFO, PRO, SL, INT)
1:15	Extemp Draw
1:30	IE Flight B Round 1 (DUO, POI, PER, EXT, TH)
3:00	Debate Draw – NPDA & IPDA Flight A
3:30	Debate Round 1 – NPDA, LD, IPDA Flight A
3:30	Debate Draw – IPDA Flight B
4:00	Debate Round 1 – IPDA Flight B, Reader’s Theater 1A
5:15	IE Flight C Round 1 (POE, CA, ADS, DI, EIM)

	FRIDAY, MARCH 14
8:00	Debate Draw – NPDA & IPDA Flight A
8:30	Debate Round 2 – NPDA, LD, IPDA Flight A, Reader’s Theater 1B
8:30	Debate Draw – IPDA Flight B
9:00	Debate Round 2 – IPDA Flight B
9:30	Extemp Draw
10:00	IE Flight B Round 2
11:15	IE Flight A Round 2

12:30	IE Flight C Round 2
2:00	Debate Draw – NPDA & IPDA Flight A
2:30	Debate Round 3 – NPDA, LD, IPDA Flight A
2:30	Debate Draw – IPDA Flight B, Reader’s Theater 2A
3:00	Debate Round 3 – IPDA Flight B
3:45	IE Flight B Round 3
5:00	Extemp Draw
5:15	IE Flight A Round 3

	SATURDAY, MARCH 15
8:00	Debate Draw – NPDA & IPDA Flight A
8:30	Debate Round 4 – NPDA, LD, IPDA Flight A
8:30	Debate Draw – IPDA Flight B
9:00	Debate Round 4 – IPDA Flight B, Readers Theater
10:00	IE Flight C Round 3
11:15	Debate Draw – NPDA & IPDA Flight A
11:45	Debate Round 5 – NPDA, LD, IPDA Flight A, Reader’s Theater 2B
11:45	Debate Draw – IPDA Flight B
12:15	Debate Round 5 – IPDA Flight B
2:00	Extemp Draw
2:15	IE Quarterfinals Part 1
3:45	IE Quarterfinals Part 2

3:45	Supplemental Events Round 1
5:15	Debate Elim Round 1

	SUNDAY, MARCH 16
8:00	IE Semifinals Part 1
9:15	Debate Elim 2
9:15	Supplemental Events Round 2
10:45	Extemp Draw
11:00	IE Semifinals Part 2
12:30	Debate Elim 3
1:00	Supplemental Event Finals
2:00	IE Finals Part 1
3:30	Extemp Draw
3:45	IE Finals Part 2
5:00	Debate Elim 4
7:00	Awards