



Dear Colleagues:

At our fall meeting, the Executive Committee of College Public Forum voted to expand our current offerings and, in turn, become the Public Communication Speech and Debate League. This year, in addition to sponsoring competition in College Public Forum, we are pleased to be introducing 4 “new” Public Communication speech events: Radio Broadcasting, Editorial Impromptu, Improvisational Duo Acting, and Slam Poetry.

On behalf of College Public Forum and Simpson College it is our pleasure to invite you to the 2014 Public Communication National Tournament on Saturday and Sunday, February 22-23, 2014 at Simpson College in Indianola, IA. Our host, Spencer Waugh, as well as Dr. Marty Birkholt of Creighton University and myself hope you can join us for this prestigious event.

The topic for the National Tournament will be the Spring 2014 CPF TOPIC – **Resolved: Congress should restore funding to the SNAP program to pre-November 2013 levels.**

You will find all of the necessary tournament information enclosed in this invitation, including a tournament schedule, event rules, lodging and entry information. We look forward to seeing you here in Indianola for nationals!

If you have questions about the tournament please contact Dan West at 740-593-9962 or email [westd1@ohio.edu](mailto:westd1@ohio.edu).

Respectfully,

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Director of Forensics  
Ohio University  
[Westd1@ohio.edu](mailto:Westd1@ohio.edu)  
740-569-9962

Dr. Marty Birkholt  
Tournament Director  
Director of Debate  
Creighton University

Spencer Waugh  
Director of Forensics  
Simpson College

## **Tournament Information**

**Events:** In debate, one division of College Public Forum will be held. We will utilize the Spring 2014 College Public Forum debate topic. In speech, we offer one division of Radio Broadcasting, Editorial Impromptu, Improvisational Duo Acting, and Slam Poetry

**Entry Deadline:** The deadline for all entries will be **Friday, February 17, at 5:00 p.m.** Confirmations will be sent out upon receipt of entries.

**Judges:** In debate, each school is required to provide one judge for each team entered. Hired judges are available at a cost of \$100 per uncovered team. Dropped judges the day of the tournament will incur an additional \$100 nuisance charge in addition to uncovered judging fees.

In speech, each school is required to provide one judge for every 4 entries. Uncovered judges are available at a cost of \$15 per uncovered entry.

**Fees:** Each participant will be charged a \$25 fee which covers continental breakfast and lunch each day. Debate entries are \$75 per CPF team and \$20 per speech entry. Fees must be paid in full at registration.

**Registration:** Please join us for registration in the Pioneer Room of McNeill Hall on the Simpson College Campus, 701 N “C” St, Indianola, IA. For a campus map, please visit: <http://simpson.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Indianola-Campus-Map.pdf>

**Hotels:** Indianola has two hotels and the Des Moines Airport is only 20 miles. There is no tournament hotel and the following hotels are listed for your convenience:

### **Hotels near Des Moines Airport**

Hampton Inn Des Moines Airport  
5001 Fleur Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50321  
515-287-7300

Fairfield Inn & Suites Des Moines Airport  
6880 Fleur Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50321  
515-309-4444

Days Inn  
1901 Hackley Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50315  
515-256-0603

### **Indianola Hotels**

Apple Tree Inn  
1215 North Jefferson Way  
Indianola, IA 50125  
(800) 961-0551

Super 8  
1701 N Jefferson  
Indianola, IA 50125 US  
1-515-961-0058

**Awards:** In debate, trophies will be presented to the top six teams at the tournament as well as any additional teams advancing to elimination rounds. A minimum of 25% of the teams entered in the tournament will advance to elimination rounds. If ties exist, partial elimination rounds will be held. Speaker Awards will be presented to the top 5 speakers at the tournament. Team sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top schools at the tournament.

In speech, trophies will be presented to all of the finalists in each event. Speaker awards will be presented to the top 5 speakers entered in two or more speech events. Team sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top schools at the tournament.

An overall sweepstakes award will be presented to the top teams competing in speech and debate.

**Entries:** Please register for the tournament at [forensicstournament.net](http://forensicstournament.net). If you have not used this site before, you will need to create an account before you will be able to register.

In debate, all schools will be allowed to enter two at-large CPF teams. Additional teams may be entered provided they attended a CPF tournament and were ranked in the top half of the teams entered at the conclusion of preliminary rounds. If you are entering more than ONE team, please scan and send tournament results to Dan West at [westd1@ohio.edu](mailto:westd1@ohio.edu)

In speech events, each school may enter up to 3 entries in each event.

**2014 Public Communication Speech & Debate League**  
**Simpson College – Indianola, IA**  
**February 22-23, 2014**  
*Tentative Schedule*

**Saturday, February 22**

8:30 – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 – 10:00 am	Round 1 – College Public Forum
10:00 am	Radio Broadcasting Draw
10:30 – 11:30 am	Round 1 – Speech Events
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Round 2 – College Public Forum
12:30 – 1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm	Radio Broadcasting Draw
1:45-2:45 pm	Round 2 – Speech Events
2:45-3:45 pm	Round 3 – Public Forum
3:45 pm	Radio Broadcasting Draw
4:00-5:00 pm	Round 3 – Speech Events

**Sunday, February 23**

9:00-10:00 am	Round 4 – College Public Forum
10:00 am	Radio Broadcasting Draw
10:30-11:30 am	FINALS – Speech Events
11:30 am	Lunch
12:30 pm	Announcement of Finalists
12:45 pm	Finals

**Event Descriptions:**

## **College Public Forum**

- 1. Philosophy:** Public Forum focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution. Competitors in this team event advocate or reject a position posed by a resolution (prepared by the College Public Forum committee and distributed via the IE-L). The clash of idea must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or “citizen judge”, i.e. a member of the American jury. Public Forum should:
  - a. Display solid logic, lucid reasoning, and depth of analysis.**
  - b. Utilize evidence without being driven by it.**
  - c. Present a clash of ideas by countering/refuting arguments of the opposing team (rebuttal)**
  - d. Communicate ideas with civility, clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum.**

This is not a debate event, per se, and as such, teams do not have prime facie burdens or the burden of rejoinder. Instead, teams are asked to advocate for (pro) or against (con) the ideas and policies represented within the resolution.

Since this is not a debate event, in the traditional sense, teams are prohibited from utilizing plans (formalized comprehensive proposals for implementation), counterplans and kritiks (off-topic arguments). Multiple competitive venues exist for the application of these argumentative strategies.

2. **Resolutions:** Resolutions will be distributed two times each year.
3. **Procedure and order of speeches:** Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results). Note: The round begins at the conclusion of the coin flip/sides/positions discussion. Contestants may not leave the room or consult with coaches after the coin flip, which begins the round.

a. First Speaker – Team A	5 minutes
b. First Speaker – Team B	5 minutes
c. Crossfire (first question by speaker A1)	3 minutes
d. Second Speaker – Team A	5 minutes
e. Second Speaker – Team B	5 minutes
f. Crossfire (first question by A2)	3 minutes
g. Summary – First Speaker – Team A	3 minutes
h. Summary – First Speaker – Team B	3 minutes
i. Closing Arguments – Second Speaker – Team A	3 minutes
j. Closing Arguments – Second Speaker – Team B	3 minutes
k. Prep Time	2 minutes per team
4. **Timing:** Judges and/or debaters should keep track of speaking time.
5. **Plans/Counterplans:** In College Public Forum, neither side is permitted to offer a plan nor a counterplan (formalized comprehensive proposal for implementation). Instead, each team should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.
6. **Oral Critiques:** No debate ballot may be turned in without a reason for decision. Oral commentary is not considered a substitute for the written ballot. CPF and the ICFL discourage judges from disclosing decisions in preliminary rounds of competition. The ballot serves as a valuable educational tool to the teams and their coaches. Comments made by a judge (orally or written) should be constructive and professional.
7. **Judges:** The use of community judges is strongly encouraged.

- 8. Governance:** College Public Forum is sponsored by the Intercollegiate Forensics League (ICFL) and all matters not covered in this description will be clarified by the ICFL committee.
- 9. National Tournament and Qualifications:** Each school in attendance at the College Public Forum National Tournament will be allowed to enter two at-large teams. All additional entries from each school must qualify for the national tournament by being ranked in the top half of teams (with no more than 8 qualifications at any tournament) at a sanctioned Public Forum Tournament during the regular season.
- 10. Sanctioning:** All College Public Forum participants are encouraged to be active members of this new forensics community and any and all suggestions and concerns should be directed to the ICFL committee. All College Public Forum tournaments must use the appropriate resolution and must be sanctioned by the PCSDL. Sanctioning is available to all schools at the fee of \$1 per team College Public Forum Team entered into competition. To receive sanctioning, a tournament must:
- Have a minimum of three schools competing in public forum
  - Have a minimum of 4 teams in attendance.
  - Hold a minimum of 4 rounds of competition.
  - Use the appropriate CPF topic.
  - Submit a completed sanctioning form (attached)
  - Submit a complete set of tournament results (prelim rounds as well as a completed elim bracket, clearly identifying first and last names as well as school affiliations of all competitors).
  - Pay the sanctioning fee.
  - NOTE: Any school in attendance may complete the sanctioning process for a tournament.
- 11. A guide to competing in Public Forum can be found at:**  
[http://www.nflonline.org/uploads/AboutNFL/cr103pf\\_instr.pdf](http://www.nflonline.org/uploads/AboutNFL/cr103pf_instr.pdf)  
*Note: This guide was written for high school Public Forum, and the events have slight differences.*
- 12. A guide to judging Public Forum can be found at:**  
<http://www.nflonline.org/uploads/CoachingResources/Public%20Forum%20Judge%20Overview.pdf>  
*Note: This guide was written for high school Public Forum, and the events have slight differences.*
- 13. Sample resolutions:** Listed below are resolutions used in High School Public Forum. College Public Forum will use resolutions similar to the ones listed below:
- Resolved: That, by 2040, the federal government should mandate that all new passenger vehicles and light trucks sold in the United States be powered by alternative fuels

- b. Resolved: That the United States government should implement universal health care modeled after the French system."
- c. Resolved: That the United States should significantly increase its use of nuclear energy.
- d. Resolved: That the United States should implement a military draft.
- e. Resolved: That the US Government should increase social services for indigenous peoples in America.
- f. Resolved: That eliminating United States government budget deficits should be prioritized over increasing domestic spending.
- g. Resolved: That the [Fairness Doctrine](#) should be reinstated.
- h. Resolved: That the private ownership of handguns should be banned in the United States

**14. For more information:** If you are interested in competing in College Public Forum, there are many resources available at the National Forensics League at <http://www.nflonline.org>

**Editorial Impromptu:** Students will be given a short editorial (ideally 3 to 5 paragraphs) to which they will develop a response. Students will be allowed 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.

*Event Description:* Editorial Impromptu represents an attempt to return "impromptu" to impromptu speaking. The speech should involve the development of an argument in response to the thesis developed or opinion shared in a given editorial. The event resembles typical impromptu speaking in many ways, with the following important exceptions:

1. Topicality is more obviously inherent in the editorial format.
2. The development of argumentation is featured over pre-planned exemplification.
3. Social issues often ignored in other formats are fair game.
4. Historical editorials might also add a dimension to the event.
5. The sharing of opinion, as well as a consideration of the opinions of audience members may play a more central role,
6. The event more closely resembles real-life discussion than existing limited preparation formats.
7. Students are rewarded for possessing and articulating a wider breadth of knowledge than existing formats.
8. This format also encourages the development of skills related to evaluating arguments and analyzing rhetoric.

**Improvisational Duo** – Preparation time for Improvisational Duo is three minutes. Preparation time is separate from performance time. Performance time must be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of six with a 30-second grace period. Contestants going over or under the allotted time and grace period may not be ranked first in that round. The judge should clarify with the students before they begin how time signals will be communicated and must then give hand signals as the contestants

are performing to help them stay within the time limit. No make-up, costumes, props, or lighting are permitted, but a table and/or two chairs may be used. Doors and walls are considered props and must not be used. The scene must contain only two characters with equal sharing of dialogue. An introduction by one or both students is **REQUIRED** to set the scene, and a resolution of the conflict must be evident at the end of the scene. Excessive profanity, sexual innuendo, or excessive physicality (i.e. pushing, shoving, and striking) **will NOT** be tolerated. Contestants are to remain outside of the room until it is their time to perform. Once they have finished with their performance they must remain in the room (unless they are cross entered) until the round is complete.

*Hints for Improvisational Duo Judges:* The scene must be a self-contained unit holding together a story itself. Students must resolve the conflict presented in the topic. Criteria for judging include teamwork of the actors, timing, movement, consistent characterization, good speaking skills, pantomime of props, and the comedic or dramatic effect of the scene on the audience.

**Poetry Slam:** Contestants will perform one self-authored poem. No introduction, other than the title of the poem, will be given. Scripts may not be used. Maximum time limit is 3 minutes.

### ***Poems and performance***

- 1) Poems can be on any subject and in any style.
- 2) Each poet must perform work that he or she has created.
- 3) No props, blocking, musical instruments, pre-recorded music or costumes.

The rule concerning props and blocking is not intended to squelch the spontaneity, unpredictability, or on-the-fly choreography that people love about the slam; its intent is to keep the focus on the words rather than poets who movement and/or dance to convey the ideas and meaning inherent in the words of the poem.

### ***Sampling***

It is acceptable for poets to incorporate, imitate, or otherwise "signify on" the words, lyrics, or tune of someone else (commonly called "sampling") in their own work. If they are only riffing off another's words, they should expect only healthy controversy; if on the other hand, they are ripping off another poet's words, they should expect scornful contumely.

### ***The No Repeat Rule***

Poems may not be repeated in prelims rounds. Students advancing to finals must perform one of their poems from prelims. Each poet should plan on bringing **THREE** original poems to compete.



### ***The Three-Minute Rule***

No performance should last longer than three minutes. The time begins when the performance begins, with the statement (or a similar equivalent): “My poem is entitled (called, named, etc). . .” No other introduction is necessary.

Judges will provide time signals. Performances lasting longer than three minutes and ten seconds should not be ranked first in the round.

**Radio Broadcasting:** Contestants will be given a packet of source materials and will have 30 minutes to select and organize a 5 minute simulated radio broadcast. All material used in the broadcast must be provided by the tournament with the exception of any hypothetical station call letters, time and current weather conditions or forecast and no more than one commercial (maximum 30 seconds). Maximum time limit for the speech is 5 minutes. Students will be seated at a table during the performance and may use a stopwatch since time signals will not be given. Judges will not face the contestant during the speech. Students will speak in listed order.