

The National Round Robin

William Jewell College – March 4th-5th, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

You are invited to send your top two parliamentary debate teams to the first National Round Robin, hosted on March 4th and 5th, 2017 by William Jewell College in Liberty, MO. The Cardinals at WJC are working hard to provide an exceptional tournament experience.

Five rounds of preliminary competition (adjudicated by two critics each) on Saturday will determine the participants in the “round-robin” style elimination rounds, held on Sunday. The team winning the most number of ballots on Sunday will win the National Round Robin. Because of the round-robin nature of this tournament’s elimination rounds, **ALL CRITICS are needed through Sunday night.**

The tournament schedule is crafted around the dining hall hours at William Jewell College. We encourage you to take advantage of our very affordable dining hall options located on the quad level of Yates Union. Jewell will provide light hospitality fare throughout the tournament to keep everyone caffeinated and with access to light/healthy snacks. Please see the details of the tournament, listed below, If you have any questions, please contact Kyle Dennis (dennisk@william.jewell.edu). We hope to see you in Liberty soon!

PART ONE: ADMINISTRATION

Tournament Rules – Except as specified in this invitation, NPDA regulations will govern the tournament. Hybrid teams and three person teams are not allowed to compete. Any undergraduate enrolled in a two-year or four-year college or university who is eligible to compete at the NPDA National Tournament is eligible to compete at the National Round Robin.

Tournament Entry – Entries will be accepted at <http://www.forensicstournament.net>. Look for the “National Round Robin” link. Each school may enter a maximum of two debate teams. Entries must be completed by 11:00 pm on Monday, February 27th, 2017.

Times for Debates – Following the announcement of the topic, debaters will have 21 minutes to prepare arguments and be present, ready to begin the debate. Each round of competition will utilize the following times:

Prime Minister Constructive:	7 minutes	Cross-Examination of MGC:	3 minutes
Cross-Examination of PMC:	3 minutes	Member of Opposition Constructive:	8 minutes
Leader of Opposition Constructive:	8 minutes	Cross-Examination of MOC:	3 minutes
Cross-Examination of LOC:	3 minutes	Leader of Opposition Rebuttal:	4 minutes
Member of Government Constructive:	8 minutes	Prime Minister Rebuttal:	5 minutes

Additionally, each team will have up to 4 minutes of preparation time to use during the debate. Finally, there will be no points of information during constructive speeches. If you do not ask questions during the cross-examination period, you may elect to begin using your prep time. Cross-X is “use it or lose it.”

Disclosure - Please help us keep on schedule – **ballots are due 1 hour and 45 minutes** after the announcement of the motion. Following the deadline for submission of ballots, time has been built into the schedule to allow critics to disclose their decisions and give feedback to debaters.

Postings & Results – The pairings - and results of the previous round – will be made available at <http://www.parlitournament.com>. While every effort will be made to ensure that results postings are timely, keeping the tournament on schedule will supersede results postings.

PART TWO: PAIRING PROCEDURES

Preliminary Rounds – Each preliminary debate will be adjudicated by two critics. The computer will randomly match found one. Rounds two through five will be power-matched based upon the results of all previous rounds. Power-matching will be high-low in win-loss brackets. When brackets are uneven, teams with the weakest opposition record will be pulled up to the next highest win-loss bracket. The tournament will use Gary Larson’s STA-XL tabulation software.

Preliminary Round Topics – Topics for debate will be the five resolutions used in the last preliminary round of the: (1) Georgia Bowman Invitational (William Jewell), (2) Golden Gate Invitational (UC Berkeley), Top Cities Classic (Washburn University), (4) Mile High Swing, Part II (University of Utah), and (5) Winter at The Beach tournament (CSU Long Beach). Those topics are listed below:

The United States should abandon the pursuit of military hegemony

The United States federal government should implement a universal preschool program.

The United States should abolish the Electoral College.

The United States federal government should eliminate the doctrine of corporate personhood.

The United States federal government should amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund of 1964 to create statutory set-asides for tribal governments.

Elimination Rounds - Advancement to and seeding in elimination rounds will be first based upon wins, followed by adjusted speaker points, then total speaker points, next by opposition record, and finally by Z-Score (judge variance). Because the elimination rounds format is round-robin in nature, if two teams from the same school both advance, they WILL debate each other.

The top 5 or 6 teams will advance to the Round Robin portion of the tournament. The tournament will do its best to avoid leaving teams with similar records out of the Round Robin debates. If a “clean break” at 8-2, 7-3, or 6-4 yields a full round-robin field (5 or 6 teams), then no debate-in round will take place. However, if necessary, a sudden death “debate-in” round will happen, following Round 5, to determine the round-robin field.

Sides and Motions – Prior to each elimination debate, after viewing pairings and judging panels and having a chance to review judging philosophies, matched teams will be asked to offer one possible resolution for the debate. Before teams are able to view both resolutions, participants will flip a coin with the winner choosing the right to select (a) the resolution for the debate among the 2 resolution choices offered by the 2 matched teams or (b) the ability to assign the sides for the debate.

After that decision is made, both teams will view the resolutions (for a set period of time). At the conclusion of that time period, the team choosing the resolution will do so; then, the team selecting the sides for the debate will do so. In the event that matched teams submit the exact same resolution, matched teams will flip only for sides.

Submitted resolutions should be debatable and educational as well as non-harassing and non-hostile. Teams are, otherwise, encouraged to be innovative in the construction of their resolutions. The tournament director (host) reserves the right to refuse a submitted resolution due to violation of campus policy (i.e. the resolution language constitutes harassment of an individual participant, protected group, is discriminatory, etc.). In the unlikely situation that must occur, the submitting team will simply be asked to revise or re-submit another resolution.

Final Placing – In the round-robin portion of the tournament, teams will first be ranked by total ballot count, followed by head-to-head matchups, and if needed Z-Score (judge variance).

Judge Assignment – Using an A-B-C-X methodology, STA-XL will assign critics to debate in a way that ensures as much mutuality as possible, while also attempting to maximize preference.

PART THREE: AWARDS, FINANCES & MISC

Entry Fees - Fees will be assessed at the entry deadline. Each team will cost \$100.00. Checks should be made payable to “William Jewell College” with debate in the memo line, if possible. We will also be able to accept credit cards—we will notify you the week of the tournament to allow for processing and we can provide a receipt at the tournament. The \$100.00 per team ensures that the tournament does not run at a loss and all of the money goes *directly* to hired critics to make MPJ a meaningful exercise. We cannot accept uncovered teams for the Round Robin. We are happy to pair you with judges in our area that might be willing to judge for your school if you need a second critic.

Judging Commitment – **One judge is required for every team entered into the tournament. All judges are obligated through Sunday night, unless there is an emergency or you have made other arrangements with the tournament.** In order to have panels for the round robin portion of the tournament, we need judges to remain committed to the tournament, even if their teams do not advance to the second day of competition. We encourage all folks to attend and watch the rounds of advancing competitors.

Awards – The Top Speaker and Tournament Champion will both receive extraordinarily high quality awards (furnished by William Jewell College) and a traveling trophy (furnished by Washburn University). Each team advancing to the Round Robin portion of the tournament will receive high quality awards. Top Speaker will be determined first by adjusted points, then by total points, followed by double adjusted points and finally by judge variance (Z-score).

Recording of Rounds— William Jewell has arranged for *all* Sunday debates to be recorded and made available to the public. Part of the pedagogical aim of this tournament is to showcase the most competitive and successful teams in our activity. We will address any requests *not* to post debates held on Sunday on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Tournament Host (in this case, dennisk@william.jewell.edu).

Other Tournament Information— Parking and other campus information will be provided to registered teams the week of the tournament.

Anti-Harassment— As a guest on our campus, we ask that you respect our anti-harassment policy. William Jewell College is committed to being an inclusive community that values the worth of each individual while respecting and accepting differences. Harassment is generally defined as verbal, written, or physical conduct based on or motivated by an individual’s protected status that unreasonably interferes with an individual’s work or academic performance or creates a hostile work or educational environment by interfering with or limiting a person’s ability to participate in William Jewell’s educational programs and activities. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling, as well as nonverbal behavior, such as graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. Should we become aware of any harassment occurring during the tournament, we will report it immediately to William Jewell’s Vice-President for Social Responsibility and Engagement who serves as the Anti-Harassment Coordinator for William Jewell College, Andy Pratt. You may also contact Andy yourself: Dr. Andy Pratt; 200 Gano Chapel; 816-415-7557; pratta@william.jewell.edu. We also understand the reality of hosting a debate tournament over the course of the weekend when administrative offices might not be immediately responsive. William Jewell College is a private campus. You are here as a guest of the students who participate in our debate program, the Director of Debate, and the Department of Communication and Theatre. Please report behavior that is not in line with our stated anti-harassment policy. If, at any point in time, behavior is reported that is antithetical to a positive learning environment for any other tournament participants, we will ask you to leave without discussion or delay. We do not have a prescribed process for investigating harassment during the tournament; it will be reported to appropriate officials on our campus. However, if we hear that anyone has been harassed, offending parties will be asked to leave our campus immediately. We are happy to host our guests, but you do not have a *right* to compete at a tournament hosted on our

campus. We also cannot know the history of every judge or competitor, nor should we. In the past, there have been troubling histories of judges and/or competitors that have been known to many members of our community, but are often not known to administrative tournament staff. If you believe that there is a person that, in the course of regular events, will attend this tournament who we should not welcome onto our campus (or might interfere with your feeling safe attending the tournament) please let us know as soon as possible—contact Kyle Dennis (dennisk@william.jewell.edu) or, if you feel more comfortable, Gina Lane (laneg@william.jewell.edu). Directors, please remember, you are *responsible* for the people that you bring to our campus. If you bring a person to our campus (student, judge or coach) that is known to harass other participants in any way (during the course of debates, at the tournament hotel, during RFD's, etc.), we will do our best to hold *you* accountable for that person. We promise that we will take every single avenue available to us to report any activity that we believe to be harassment to the immediate supervisor of your program and administration at your college or university.

The National Round Robin

2017 Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, March 4th, 2017

8:30 Pairings Released
8:35 Topic Announced
8:56-9:55 Round One Debates (random)
10:20 Ballots due to Tab
10:40 Pairings Released
10:45 Topic Announced
11:06-12:05 Round Two Debates (hi/lo)
12:30 Ballots due to Tab
12:30-1:15 LUNCH BREAK
1:15 Pairings Released
1:20 Topic Announced
1:41-2:40 Round Three Debates (hi/lo)
3:05 Ballots due to Tab
3:25 Pairings Released
3:30 Topic Announced
3:51-4:50 Round Four Debates (hi/lo)
5:15 Ballots due to Tab
5:15-6:00 DINNER BREAK
6:00 Pairings Released
6:05 Topic Announced
6:26-7:25 Round Five Debates (hi/lo)
7:50 Ballots due to Tab
8:10 Pairings Released
8:15 Topic Announced
8:36-9:35 "Debate-In" Round (if needed)
10:00 Ballots due to Tab

SUNDAY, March 5th, 2017

8:30 Pairings Released
8:35 Topic & Side Draw
8:44 Preparation Time Begins
9:05-10:05 Elim Round #1
10:25 Ballots due to Tab
10:35 Pairings Released
10:40 Topic & Side Draw
10:49 Preparation Time Begins
11:10-12:10 Elim Round #2
12:35 Ballots due to Tab
12:30-1:15 LUNCH BREAK
1:15 Pairings Released
1:20 Topic & Side Draw
1:29 Preparation Time Begins
1:50-2:50 Elim Round #3
3:10 Ballots due to Tab
3:20 Pairings Released
3:25 Topic & Side Draw
3:34 Preparation Time Begins
3:55-4:55 Elim Round #4
5:15 Ballots due to Tab
5:25 Pairings Released
5:30 Topic & Side Draw
5:39 Preparation Time Begins
6:00-7:00 Elim Round #5
7:20 Ballots due to Tab
7:30 P.M. AWARDS CEREMONY