



University of West Florida

2020 Marks Invitation

November 7, 2020

Colleagues,

The University of West Florida is pleased to host the 2020 Marks Invitational, a one-day individual events tournament on November 7, 2020. This year's tournament will be a virtual, synchronous competitive experience on the 8x8 online platform. Schools should register via forensicstournament.net by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2nd.

This year we are excited to offer a no-fee tournament. In order to offer no-fees, we will have to maintain some strict standards for judge coverage. If your program struggles to meet these standards, I would be happy to discuss options with you.

This tournament will offer all 11 of the traditional individual speaking events. The 8x8 platform provides us with a seamless tournament experience. In the regulations below, you can find guidance on the usage of forensicstournament.net and the 8x8 online platform.

Virtual competition has created a unique set of challenges and opportunities for our forensics community. It is our goal to provide an enjoyable and equitable online tournament experience. If you or any of your students have any special circumstances or needs, please let us know and we will do everything in our power to provide the necessary accommodations.

We look forward to seeing you in early November,

Dr. Adam Blood
Director of Forensics

Nicole Allen
Graduate Assistant Coach

Tournament Schedule and Flights

Flight A: Extemp, DI, Poetry, ADS, Persuasive

Flight B: Impromptu, Prose, POI, DUO, Informative, Communication Analysis

7:00 Registration, Technical and Systems Check
8:00 Extemp Draw 1A
8:30 Round 1A
10:00 Extemp Draw 2A
10:30 Round 2A
12:00 Round 1B
1:30 Round 2B
3:00 Finals A
4:30 Finals B
6:00 Awards

ALL TIMES ARE CENTRAL TIME ZONE!!!

Please adapt schedule accordingly

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. Adam Blood at ablood@uwf.edu or 417-437-1437.

Pentathlon: Students will be eligible for pentathlon competition if they compete in *at least five events across all three genres* (Limited Prep, Public Address, Interpretation).

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.

Judging

Since we are trying to offer a tournament with no fees, we need to have slightly modified requirements for judging. One judge will cover 6 individual events, and we ask that schools cover *at least half their entry*. As much as we would prefer not to, we reserve the right to cut entries prior to the tournament if there is insufficient judge coverage. We are working to provide

as many volunteer judges as we can from our pool of volunteer faculty and graduate students, as well as anyone I can beg to give up a few hours on a Saturday. If there are extenuating circumstances affecting your ability to cover your entry, please contact me as soon as possible.

Online Competition

We will be using Forensicstournament.net, with their 8x8 tournament platform. For any guidance on how to use this function, please see www.forensicstournament.net. They also have an incredibly helpful set of videos on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wr97LnEUwGE&list=PLqA6ZKvXfAxNRTlfb0oYNSwVku0QQYEP>

As competition this season has shifted online, we are all adapting to the new norms and approaches to virtual competition. This might change the way we view and evaluate speeches. 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.

Entries

All entries should be submitted through Forensicstournament.net by Monday, November 2nd at 5:00 P.M. All drops/changes should be submitted by Wednesday November 4th at 5:00 p.m.