

“The Sir”

**A Virtual BP Teaching Tournament and Master Class
Friday night, Saturday and Sunday morning
September 17, 18 & 19**

Friday night

A forum with Brent: “Building community and relationships in Online BP Debate.”

A demonstration debate: Enjoyable topic, followed by a critique and discussion

Saturday morning:

“Brent for Beginners”

&

Mark Schmutzler on using narrative structure to construct good arguments

Steve Johnson on “Why debaters need to think like judges.”

Saturday afternoon & Sunday morning

A four-round tournament with separate out-rounds in novice and open

Featuring

Mark Schmutzler, Carroll alum

Steve Johnson, University of Alaska professor and coach

Brent Northup, Carroll College coach

Tab: Jacob Witt, transplant from Seattle to California

Note: Jacob’s the best. Period.

Virtually yours, from the Carroll College Cloud

Sept. 17-18-19, 2021

“The Sir”

A BP Teaching Tournament and Master Class

A Virtual BP Teaching Tournament and Master Class Friday night, Saturday and Sunday morning September 17, 18 & 19, 2021

Carroll College invites you to the 10th annual Montana BP Teaching Tournament. Nothing can top the first edition at Rocky in 2012 when Shelby Jo gave a stirring BP lecture and then raced to the hospital to give birth to Ava Joyce, now 10! That weekend ended with debaters in the Billings maternity ward!

The emphasis is teaching, not competition – but we offer a low-key four-round tournament (breaking to two finals, Open and Novice). **We offer a beginner’s workshop and an advanced workshop.** The master class will be taught by former Carroll debater Mark Schmutzler, who broke at nationals as a debater and as a judge.

On Friday night, we will feature a **fun showcase debate**, preceded by a **forum** hosted by Brent.

Also on Friday night, Brent will host a discussion of “**Building community and relationships in BP Online Debate**” which boils down to be nice to one another in all settings.

After more than a year of teaching, judging and competing online, I’ve begun to sense that relationship-building is difficult in online competition. We aren’t always as effective at listening online as we are in person. I’ve noticed debaters do not always make eye contact with other speakers, and sometimes listeners talk during speeches - sound off, camera on, lips moving.

As a result, a speaker doesn’t always get a sense of being appreciated or even respected. Maybe we don’t expect contact online. I think we should seek to build relationships online. I teach Martin Buber’s theory of genuine dialogue, which encourages us to respect and even love those we oppose – even in the heart of blunt, honest disagreement. Can we apply this in an online debate? Do debaters realize that non-verbals are magnified and amplified on camera? Eye-rolling is a favorite example of a friend of mine.

I would like to lead a discussion of how we might better foster Buber’s “reverence for all.” Can that be done online? I think we tended to be more respectful in person. When we debate in-person, debaters leave the room while judges deliberate – and that time sometimes included relationship-building. That’s harder online, even if the software has chat rooms.

After we discuss relationship-building for an hour, teams will offer a demonstration debate on an enjoyable topic. Debaters yet to be determined. If you have a team interested, let me know.

Saturday morning, Mark Schmutzler and Steve Johnson will host two 75-minute workshops on 1) building narratively structured arguments and 2) thinking like judges. Debaters can attend both.

Mark debated for Carroll, and broke at nationals as a judge and a debater. He just earned his Master’s in communication at Cal State University Long Beach. Next stop: His doctorate in communication, followed by a glorious career as a professor and coach, where he will be loved by students and colleagues alike.

Steve's Seawolf teams have won a national championship, and been in the semi-finals of the world championships. Steve was named the top judge at the Purdue national championships in 2014. Anyone who doesn't know and respect Steve is a newcomer to these here parts.

Also on Saturday morning, Brent will offer "**BP for beginners**" designed to introduce students and coaches to BP debate, and to prepare students for the tournament which begins after lunch. A student who knew nothing about BP when the workshop starts will end the workshop brave enough to give BP a go after lunch. They will speak the language of BP – old matter, new matter, whipping - well enough to enjoy the four-round tournament without (much) embarrassment. Judges will be instructed to give constructive critiques during the tournament designed to lift all boats: advanced debaters get stronger, and novice debaters learn skills they can apply during the next rounds. Topics will be substantive, but also novice friendly, to keep from discouraging beginners.

Brent will offer to keep in touch with novices afterwards as a resource and secret consultant. Once I teach you, I am yours forever. Unlimited warranty. My cell phone number will be made available to all. No need to worry about time zones, I'll answer 24/7. I love working with novices. We do things upside-down at Carroll: I am the first-year coach, while the upper teams work with my assistants. I help new students with their transition to college, and I try to lay the foundation for success in speech, debate and life.

We will have separate outrounds in open and in novice, although prelims will include all teams. Novice is defined as a debater in their first year of college BP debate. Break ties in favor of moving them to open.

Fees will be a flat \$15 per debater, plus \$25 flat fee for schools bringing no judges. Judges strongly encouraged. Vaccinations, too! Everything is online. We will use Yaatly, the BP program co-created by Denise Vaughan, former Carroll debater who greeted me when I arrived in 1989!

We are also recruiting honored judges to provide stellar feedback. Stay tuned for updates.

Brent of Carroll College
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A Teaching Tournament for BP
Mark & Steve for the professionals; Brent for the beginners
Enter by Sept. 14 on Forensics Tournament

Carroll College, Helena, Montana
Sept. 17-18-19, 2021

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**SCHEDULE, Montana Time,
Mountain Daylight Time**

Friday, Sept. 17 (Montana time)

6:30 p.m. Forum: "Building community and relationships in online BP debate," led by Carroll coach, Brent Northup.

7:30 p.m. Showcase debate

8:45 p.m. Critique and discussion

Saturday, Sept. 18

"Brent for Beginners" Workshop 9:30-11 a.m. & 11:15-12:30 p.m.

Advanced I: Mark's Master Class 9:30-11 a.m.

Advanced II: Steve's Master Class 11:15-12:30 p.m.

Lunch 12:30-1:30 p.m. Virtual feast!!!

Round 1: 1:30 p.m.

Round 2 3:30 p.m.

Round 3 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 19

Round 4 9:30 a.m.

NOVICE & OPEN FINALS 11:30 a.m.

(Semi-finals if entries permit)

Start the virtual drive home 3 p.m.

Entry Fee: \$15 per debater, plus \$25 flat fee for any team not accompanied by at least one judge.

Platform: Yaatly

Entry due date: Tuesday, by 6 p.m., September 14, 2021 on Forensics Tournament.
(forensicstournament.net)

Novice: First year of college BP debate