

18th Annual Talk Hawk Invitational

Jan 30~Feb 1, 2026

at Las Positas College in Livermore, CA

We invite you to a weekend of Enchanted Expression

Greetings to all!

In preparation for a semester of championship tournaments, the 2026 Talk Hawk Invitational will feature a full weekend of ***Individual Events, Parliamentary Debate, LD and IPDA Debate***. We will have 3 (that's right, ***THREE!***) preliminary rounds of IE competition, festival finals (Bronze & Gold Rounds) for IPDA and full breaks for Parli and LD participants. When able to do so, we will offer Novice and Open Divisions while following NCFA guidelines for novice eligibility. We reserve the right to collapse divisions due to limited entry. Expect that any IE event that has less than 8 competitors entered be collapsed. Judge availability will be a major part of our decision-making process.

IPDA debate will be taking place on Friday, January 30. Because of room limitations on our campus this semester (construction!) **we will be double-flighting IPDA rounds**, and we'll be offering 3 preliminary rounds of competition. All competitors with winning rounds will advance to the Bronze and Gold rounds. Additionally, ***we will not allow more than 2 uncovered entries in IPDA and LD per school***. Please see specifics on page 5.

As always, the 1st Place Open winner in each event will win a ***CASH PRIZE***. The amount for each event will be dependent upon total tournament and entry size. In some years winners have received \$120! Now is not the time to rest your best events. Bring your top-notch programs and walk home with cash! **(We encourage tournament entry payments to be made in cash, Venmo or Paypal to facilitate ease of payments to our 1st Place winners, but we will accommodate any payment method required by your business office.)**

You will find the usual events lined up for your pleasure with the same interesting twists that make the Talk Hawk Invitational unique.

- First and foremost, **all interpretation events will be book optional**, judges are not to penalize students for performing without a script in hand.
- Contestants in **any round of Duo Interpretation will be permitted to adorn any thematic attire desirable** (Translation: costumes allowed!).
- This year SPAR (“**SP**ontaneous **AR**gumentation”) is a Sweepstakes Event and will be held during IE Pattern A on Saturday. See page 8 for full instructions.

- Las Positas College is equipped with smart classrooms. Competitors in Informative, Communication Analysis, After Dinner, and Persuasive Speaking are allowed to use PowerPoint for their visual aids. (As in all situations that require technology for visual aids, ***have a backup plan, just in case***)
- For additional variations please read the entire invite carefully, paying special attention to the *Event Descriptions* for some minor twists and turns like those mentioned above.
- Please register all entries on forensicstournament.net
- We will be using online balloting for all events. All judges must have a smart phone and/or laptop in order to judge rounds.
- Important Note – We will do everything we can to run LD, but if there are not enough qualified judges to cover the competition then we may have to make the tough decision to cancel the event. If judges code themselves off 2-3 different schools it's problematic and/or impossible to run the event. This decision will take place no later than 6 pm on Wednesday, January 28.

While these small changes are meant to create a fun and exciting atmosphere it will not deter from the competitive nature of Forensics competition, nor will it prohibit students from earning legs for AFA nationals.

We look forward to seeing you at the tournament.

Sincerely,

Jim Dobson jdobson@laspositascollege.edu (510) 384-9525

Natalie Kellner nkellner@laspositascollege.edu (925) 759-8449

Tim Heisler theisler@laspositascollege.edu (209) 765-7260

Ryan Guy guyr@yosemite.edu (951) 237-8771

Co-Hosts of the Talk Hawk Invitational
Las Positas College

LD and IPDA Debate – Friday, January 30, 2026

LD DEBATE

9:00-9:30 AM	Registration
9:30 AM	Round 1
10:45 AM	Round 2
12-1 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Round 3
2:30 PM	Round 4
4:00 PM	Elim 1
5:30 PM	Elim 2

Registration location tbd – Check Splash page on FTN tournament page for updates.

IPDA DEBATE

9:00-9:30 AM	Registration
9:30 AM	Round 1 Draw A (debate at 10:00 AM)
10:00 AM	Round 1 Draw B (debate at 10:30 AM)
11:30 AM	Round 2 Draw A (debate at 12:00 PM)
12:00 PM	Round 2 Draw B (debate at 12:30 PM)
1-2 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	Round 3 Draw A (debate at 2:30 PM)
2:30 PM	Round 3 Draw B (debate at 3:00 PM)
4:30 PM	Bronze Medal Draw (debate at 5:00 PM)
6:00 PM	Gold Medal Draw (debate at 6:30 PM)

Registration location tbd – Check Splash page on FTN tournament page for updates

IPDA topic draw will take place in Room 1011

Parliamentary Debate

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

7:15 am	Registration
8:00 am	Topic Announce; 8:20 Round 1 begins
9:30 am	Topic Announce; 9:50 Round 2 begins
11:15 am	Topic Announce; 11:35 Round 3 begins
	(lunch break)
1:45	Topic Announce; 2:05 Round 4 begins
3:30	Topic Announce; 3:50 Round 5 begins
5:15	Topic Announce; 5:35 Elim 1 begins

SUNDAY, February 1, 2026

1:30 PM	Topic Announce; 1:50 Elim 2 begins
4:30 PM	Topic Announce; 4:50 Elim 3 begins

Individual Events

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

8:00 AM **Registration**

9:00 AM **Round 1 – A Pattern**

10:30 AM **Round 2 – A Pattern**

11:45 AM **Round 3 – A Pattern**

(Lunch Break)

2:30 PM **Finals – A Pattern**

Pattern A: After Dinner Speaking,
Informative, Poetry, Prose, POI, CA,
SPAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

7:30 AM **Extemp Prep**

8:00 AM **Round 1 – B Pattern**

9:30 AM **Extemp Prep**

10:00 AM **Round 2 – B Pattern**

11:30 AM **Extemp Prep**

12:00 PM **Round 3 – B Pattern**

(Lunch Break)

1:45 PM **Semifinal Extemp Prep**

2:00 PM **Impromptu Semifinals**

2:15 PM **Extemp Semifinals**

3:00 PM **Finals – B Pattern (DI, Pers, DUO)**

3:15 PM **Finals Extemp Prep**

3:30 PM **Impromptu Finals**

3:45 PM **Extemp Finals**

ASAP **Awards**

IE Pattern B: Extemp, Impromptu,
DI, Persuasive, DUO

Important Locations

- Tournament Site: The tournament will be held on the Las Positas College campus. (3000 Campus Hill Dr. Livermore, CA. 94551)
- Registration:
 - Room TBD – check for updates on our FTN Splash Page.
 - **All schools are required to check in and verify their entries prior to the start of the first round of competition each day. Each Day please.**
- Prep Rooms:
 - IPDA Topic Strikes on Friday – Room 1011
 - Parli on Saturday – Team Rooms will be designated the night before the tournament. Check the FTN Splash Page for details.
 - Extemp Topic Announcements on Sunday – Room 1011
- Awards: Main Stage Theater in Building 4000 (located at the bottom of the hill)
- Tab Room: TBD – check for updates on our FTN Splash Page
- Judge's room: TBD – check for updates on our FTN Splash Page
- Postings and Competitor Lounge: Cafeteria
- Food/snacks: Cafeteria (judges and students)
- Parking: Free if vehicles park in Lot A or the lower portion of Lot B (both are located on the west side of the campus). For a map, go to <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/assets/docs/LPC-Campus-Map.pdf>

Entry Deadlines

- **DEBATE & IE ENTRIES:** please use the online site forensictournament.net to register your students.
- **For BOTH IE and Debate, the deadline for receiving entries is 6:00pm on Tuesday, January 27th.**
- **Fees will be assessed based upon the entries at 6:00pm on Wednesday, January 28th.**
 - We will be hiring judges and making room reservations at this time
 - Important Note – In recent years, this tournament has spent over a thousand dollars paying for LD judges. If there are not enough judges provided by the schools to run the event, we may have to cancel LD. This decision will take place no later than 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28.
- Drops will be allowed on-line until 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 29.
- Text any changes made after 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 29 to:
 - Jim Dobson (925) 384-9525 or
 - Tim Heisler (209) 765-7260 or
 - Ryan Guy (951) 237-8771 or
 - Natalie Kellner (925) 759-8449 with full details of school, student, event and change needed.
- **Any changes made after 8:00 PM the day before the event begins will be treated as a drop at registration and will result in being charged the entry fee AND a \$20 drop fee for the event.**

Double/Triple Entries and Event Conflicts

- Students may be entered in *either* LD *or* IPDA debate on Friday, not both.
- Students participating in Parliamentary Debate *may not* be entered in IE events in Pattern A.
- Students may triple-enter in IE Pattern A events.
- Students may triple-enter in IE Pattern B events...even Extemp, but reach out to tournament directors if this is the case so we can schedule their speaking order accordingly.

Fees

- \$12 per Individual Event slot. (Duo is an Individual Event, it requires only one judge per round. As such, we do not increase the fee for a Duo entry at the Talk Hawk Invitational.)
- Uncovered IE slots will be charged *an additional* \$30 per entry.
 - We are aware that this fee seems excessive. The going rate to hire a judge for the day is \$150-\$200. Sadly, this expense must be passed on to the schools who have uncovered slots.
- \$65 per Parliamentary Debate team.
 - Uncovered Parliamentary Debate teams will be charged *an additional* \$150 per entry.
- \$35 per LD and IPDA entry.
- Uncovered LD and IPDA entries will be charged *an additional* \$65 per entry.
 - We are aware that this fee seems excessive. The going rate to hire a judge for the day is \$150-\$200. Sadly, this expense must be passed on to the schools who have uncovered slots.
- \$40 School Fee that helps to fund Student Wellness elements and pay for facility expenses.
- A drop fee of \$20 per slot will be assessed for each change (add, drop, event switch) received after 8:00 p.m. the day before the event begins. This will be added to the registration fee for the event.
- EVERY change at registration will result in a \$20 change fee. Therefore, “Sorry, I made a mistake. It shouldn’t be Open Poetry, it should be Open Prose,” will result in a \$40 change fee.
- “No Shows” will be penalized \$20 for each round missed.
- Each unexpired can of food that is brought to registration will result in a reduction of \$2 for an IE entry or a reduction of \$5 for a debate entry. These will be donated to charity. Only 1 can will be applied to each entry...so, 13 cans of Spam will *not* get you a free parliamentary team entry. Sorry, nope.
- See Fee Calculation chart on page 9

Judge & Entry Requirements

- Each school should provide one judge for every five slots per pattern of Individual Events.
- One debate judge covers two Parliamentary Debate teams per school. Schools are not allowed to have more than 2 uncovered parliamentary debate entries. Judges are committed through the first **FULL** elimination round. If we run a partial during Elim 1 on Saturday night, we need judges available at the 1:30 PM Elim round on Sunday.
- One debate judge covers two LD Debate entries per school. Schools are not allowed to have more than 2 uncovered entries.
- One debate judge covers two IPDA Debate entries per school. Schools are not allowed to have more than 2 uncovered entries.
- ***We cannot count “novice only” judges as part of the commitment for a school.***
- We may need to use judges to assist with judging all forms of competition. While we understand certain judges may not feel qualified or simply don’t want to judge other events, it may be necessary to keep the tournament on time. We will, of course, try to avoid this scenario if at all possible.

Event Description

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE (governed by National Parliamentary Debate Association rules)

1. A different resolution will be used each round. For elimination rounds, brackets will be broken to prevent teams from the same school from debating their school. In the case of hybrid teams, a school shall have no more than one hybrid team. If the two schools’ coaches can’t decide who advances or if a debate occurs when hitting a “pure” team from their school in an elimination round, the tournament director will decide for them.
2. The Team Parliamentary format shall be: 7-8-8-8-4-5.
3. There will be 5 preliminary rounds and the appropriate number elimination rounds, as permitted by NPDA.

4. There will be *at least* two divisions (Novice/Open). We will follow NPDA rules for eligibility. The student may not have more than one semester of competitive high school debate experience and must also be in the first two semesters of collegiate debate.
5. After topic announcement, teams will have 20 minutes to get to their respective rooms. Prepare as needed.
6. A strict 5-minute forfeit rule will be enforced. Teams should be in their room, ready to debate 20 minutes after topic announced. Any team not ready to debate 5 minutes after that 20 minutes has elapsed will be forfeited. Not all outside doors to a room may be unlocked. Rest assured, there is a way in. Provide yourself ample time to get to your rounds on time.
7. It is tournament policy that students should be prepared and willing to debate on either side of a topic. If a team refuses to debate a topic, it will be treated as a forfeit and the offending team will be given a loss and zero speaker points for that round.
8. JUDGES: It is expected that all parliamentary debates on Saturday and Sunday will be concluded in this time. That includes the topic announcement, the 20 minutes of prep, the debate itself and that the completed ballots are submitted to FTN. **ONLY PROVIDE ORAL CRITIQUES AFTER THE COMPLETED BALLOT IS SUBMITTED TO FTN!!!** After the ballot is submitted, feel free to talk away until your heart's content.
9. Special Parliamentary Debate Teams
 - A. Three person Team: schools with an odd number of debaters may enter a single three person team. The coach may select
 - B. which two debaters participate in each round. For purposes of speaker awards, points will not be averaged for rounds, if any, a speaker misses.
 - C. Hybrid Teams: A school may enter a hybrid team. The intent of this rule is to allow debaters who have no available partner at their school to participate in the tournament. The hybrid will be treated as a team from each school, being protected from hitting either school in prelims. Elims handled in accord with NPDA custom.
 - D. Maverick Debaters are NOT allowed. All debate teams must consist of two individuals. No 2-on-1.

NFA-LD DEBATE (governed by NFA-LD rules)

1. The format shall be: 6-3-7-3-6-6-3 with 4 minutes running prep time per person.
2. There will be 4 preliminary rounds and two elimination rounds.
4. There will be two divisions (Novice and Open) provided we have enough entry. We will follow NFA-LD rules for eligibility. We reserve the right to collapse if necessary.
5. Unfortunately we will not be able to accept more than 2 uncovered entries. We just do not have the judges to facilitate this.
6. A 5-minute forfeit rule will be strictly enforced. Any competitor not ready to debate 5 minutes after the scheduled start time forfeits unless the delay has been created by the tournament. Please allow yourself enough time to find the room. All doors may not be unlocked but there will be a way in for sure.
7. Time blocks are for debating and returning the ballot. Any oral critiques are only to be conducted AFTER returning the ballot. Please, observe these time requirements! We do not want the entire tournament to be late because of critics' lengthy oral critiques! Return the ballot BEFORE beginning the critique!

IPDA DEBATE (International Public Debate Association)

IPDA is a one-on-one debate format in which one debater takes the side of the affirmative and the other debater takes the side of the negative. For each round, the two debaters are given five possible resolutions. The negative begins the topic selection by striking one resolution and proceeds in the back-and-forth fashion until one resolution is left. After the topic has been selected, both debaters have thirty minutes to prepare a case. IPDA debates encourages the use of lay judges to adjudicate the round and emphasizes conversational rhetoric. Visit ipdadebate.info to learn more. We hope to offer two divisions for IPDA (Novice/Open). IPDA rules state that a student is no longer a novice if they have competed in any form of debate (NPDA/L-D, college/high school, etc.) for 8 or more tournaments. The speech times are:

A. 1 st Affirmative – 5 minutes	E. Affirmative Rebuttal – 3 minutes
B. Cross Examination – 2 minutes	F. Negative Rebuttal – 5 minutes
C. 1 st Negative – 6 minutes	G. Affirmative Summary – 3 minutes
D. Cross Examination – 2 minutes	

Entry Cap: We have had 70+ IPDA entries in recent years and that's nearly maxed out our room capabilities.

Please enter as many IPDAs as you would like, but schools with large entries (6+) may be asked to reduce their number. Additionally, we will not be able to accept more than 2 uncovered IPDA debate entries. We just do not have enough judges to allow this. We will make EVERY effort to accommodate as many IPDA debaters as possible. **Please call Tim Heisler or Jim Dobson directly if you have entry concerns regarding this matter.**

IE Pattern A:

- **After Dinner Speaking:** An original speech whose primary purpose is to entertain while exhibiting sound speech composition. The speech should not resemble a nightclub act, an impersonation, or a comic dialogue. Rather, it should be designed around a central topic or theme and demonstrating good taste. Audio-visual aids may be used. 10 minute time limit. **Students are allowed to use PowerPoint for their visual aids.**
- **Informative Speaking:** An original speech designed to describe, clarify, or explain an object, idea, concept, or process. Audio/visual aids may be used as long as they do not interfere with the speaker's ability to communicate. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is ten minutes. **Students are allowed to use PowerPoint for their informative presentations.**
- **Poetry Interpretation:** Poetry shall include one or more selections written in rhymed or unrhymed meter or cadence of some regularity, excluding drama. If more than one selection is used, the selections must be thematically linked. An introduction is required. **Book Optional.** 10 minute time limit.
- **Prose Interpretation:** Prose shall consist of single or multiple selections of literature printed mainly in paragraph form, excluding drama. If more than one selection is used, these selections should be thematically linked. All programs must include an introduction. **Book optional.** 10 minute time limit.
- **Program Oral Interpretation (POI):** This event is to consist of a unified presentation made up of at least two selections of different genres (i.e., prose, poetry, dramatic literature, plays). A contestant may use the works of one or more authors. The selections should develop a theme. Maximum time limit is ten minutes, including introduction. **Book Optional.**
- **Communication Analysis:** An original speech by the student designed to offer an examination and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc., through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. Maximum time limit is ten minutes. **Students are also permitted to use PowerPoint for their visual aids.**
- **SPAR – “SPontaneous ARgumentation”** Debaters will be assigned to the Pro or Con side prior to the introduction of the topics. Each pair will receive three potential topics. The Pro will strike one topic first, then the Con. After the topic is selected, there is 2-total minutes of prep (*no research permitted!*) before the debate begins:
 - Pro speaker will give 2-minute constructive speech in favor of the resolution.
 - The Con speaker will refute the speaker in a 2-minute constructive.
 - Following the opening statements there will be a 4-minute “crossfire” where the pair question each other and take questions from their opponent.
 - Two rebuttal speeches follow: first a two-minute Pro rebuttal, then a two-minute Con rebuttal.
 - End of debate.
 - NO PREP TIME ALLOWED during the debate.

This event will be open to the public, with high school and middle school students invited to participate.

IE Pattern B:

- **Extemporaneous Speaking:** Each contestant will be given a choice of 3 topics drawn 30 minutes prior to speaking. Topics will concern national and international events. Judges must provide time signals. 7 minute time limit. **Extemp competitors are expected to remain in the room after they finish speaking unless they are double-entered.**
- **Impromptu Speaking:** Each speaker presents a spontaneous oration based upon a choice of 3 topics (words, phrases, or quotations). Each speaker has a total of 7 minutes to divide between preparing and speaking. Judges must provide oral time signals during preparation and nonverbal signals once the oration begins. **Audience members are permitted and encouraged to be lively and active, much like a debate audience.**
- **Persuasive Speaking:** An original speech by the student designed to inspire, reinforce, or change the beliefs, attitudes, values, or actions of the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Notes are permitted. **Final round of Open competition may include one or more judges who are area community leaders. Students are allowed to use PowerPoint for their visual aids.** Maximum time limit is ten minutes.
- **Dramatic Interpretation:** This event consists of a cutting from a play, teleplay, or screenplay featuring monologue or dialogue. If more than one selection is used, these selections should be linked thematically. All programs must include an introduction. **Book optional.** 10-minute maximum time.
- **Duo Interpretation:** A cutting from a single source or multiple sources of literature involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. **Books are optional and costumes are permitted. If anyone chooses to use costumes, dressing for this event should not delay the tournament. Please perform costume changes in a timely fashion.** 10-minute time limit.

Awards

Awards will be given to all out-round participants and will include cash payouts for the winner of each open event final. The cash prize amount will vary based on tournament entry size. Top Speaker Awards will be given to the top speaker of *open level* competition in Individual Events, Parliamentary Debate, LD, and IPDA. Team Sweepstakes will be awarded to the top three schools in both Debate and Individual Events. LPC will not be eligible for team sweepstakes awards. The point breakdown for sweepstakes is as follows:

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Open	Novice
1st = 12 Pts.	6 Pts.
2nd = 10 Pts.	5 Pts.
3rd = 8 Pts.	4 Pts.
4th = 6 Pts.	3 Pts.
5th = 4 Pts.	2 Pts.
6th = 2 Pts.	1 Pt.

PARLI DEBATE

Open	Jr.	Nov
1 st = 40	30	20
2 nd = 30	22.5	15
Semi = 20	15	10
Qrts = 10	7.5	5
Octo = 5	3.5	2.5

LD & IPDA

Open	Jr.	Nov
Gold = 20	15	10
Silver = 15	11	7.5
Bronze = 10	7.5	5

Lodging

- We have not been able to secure a group rate at any of our neighboring hotels. Experience has shown that hotels.com expedia.com, bookings.com, orbitz.com, trivago.com and all of the other hotel sights have very competitive bids with similar rates.
- The hotels closest to the campus are: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Residence Inn by Marriott, Hampton Inn Livermore, Courtyard by Marriott, Hilton Garden Inn and Home 2 Suites by Hilton.
- Year in and year out the cheapest hotels near the campus have been: Extended Stay America, Motel 6 and Springtown Inn. As is usually the case, you typically get what you pay for.

Fee Calculation:

We would be absolutely thrilled if you can pay your entry fees in cash. This will make it much easier for us to turn around and provide cash awards to the first-place open competitors. We understand if your school policy prohibits you from being able to do so. Any checks can be made out to **Las Positas College, c/o Forensics.**

School Fee	\$ 40.00
Individual Events entries _____ x \$12	\$ _____
Uncovered slots of IE _____ x \$30	\$ _____
Nuance (SPAR) entries _____ x \$10	\$ _____
Parli Team entries _____ x \$65	\$ _____
Uncovered Parli Team _____ x \$150	\$ _____
LD entry _____ x \$35	\$ _____
Uncovered LD entry _____ x \$65	\$ _____
IPDA entry _____ x \$35	\$ _____
Uncovered IPDA entry _____ x \$65	\$ _____
Drops after 8 p.m. the day before the event _____ x \$20	\$ _____
Drops/changes at Registration _____ x \$20	\$ _____
I.E. No Shows _____ x \$20 (Per Round)	\$ _____
Subtotal	\$ _____
Reduction for canned food	- \$ _____
Total	\$ _____

While cash is preferred, any payment method is acceptable. Credit Card payments will be subject to an extra cost to cover the service charge fees charged by FTN.