

**On behalf of the Northern Illinois University Debate Team and Staff,
you are invited to attend the
M. Jack Parker Debate Invitational
hosted virtually
on October 13th, 2023.
DeKalb, IL**

Dear Colleague,

The Northern Illinois University Forensics Team is excited to host our annual debate tournament, the M. Jack Parker Debate Invitational. We will be offering Parliamentary debate. The NIU Debate Team and coaching staff would like to honor the legacy of our former Director of Forensics, debate coach, and colleague Dr. M. Jack Parker. Dr. Parker created NIU's debate tournament with the goal of constructing a space where new debaters are able to learn the process of debate, and more seasoned debaters have the chance to hone their debate skills. It is in this spirit that we offer a debate tournament where novices can start their debate careers, and varsity debaters can begin their debate season.

The tournament will consist of four preliminary rounds, a semi, and a final debate round. Based on the number of entries, the tournament director may add to/subtract from the number of out rounds. This decision will be announced by the Thursday evening before the tournament. The top two novice debaters (who are not in the varsity out rounds) will qualify for a novice final round. You will be asked to provide a list of your novice competitors at registration.

Entries are due on Tuesday, October 14th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The tournament will be hosted on forensicstournament.net.

We look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

Matt DuPuis

Northern Illinois University

Director of Debate

Tournament Director

Tournament Fees:

1. Parli entries incur a fee of \$15.00. Schools may not enter uncovered debate entries. If your program is experiencing financial hardship, please contact Matt DuPuis to discuss alternatives.
2. A \$30 nuisance fee will be assessed for debaters dropped after 5:00 p.m. on October 12th. Drops made at registration will cost \$75.00 per debater. When you know you have a drop, please contact Matt DuPuis (815-508-3355)
3. A \$30 nuisance fee will be assessed for judge drops after 5:00 p.m. on October 12th. A \$100.00 fee will be charged for a judge drop at registration. When you know you have a drop, please contact Matt DuPuis (815-508-3355))
4. A \$30 nuisance fee will be assessed for judge drops after 5:00 p.m. on October 12th. A \$100.00 fee will be charged for a judge drop at registration. When you know you have a drop, please contact Matt DuPuis (815-508-3355))
5. Make checks payable to: **NIU Forensics**. If you need to use a digital form of payment, please contact Matt DuPuis (mdupuis1@niu.edu).

Judges:

All schools are asked to provide enough debate-qualified judges to cover their slots: 1 judge for every 2 debaters entered. All judges must remain to judge at least one round past the elimination of their last debater.

Awards:

Certificates will be awarded to our top speakers and advancing debaters.

GENERAL TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

TOURNAMENT PLATFORM AND GENERAL PROCEDURE

1. The tournament will be conducted using **Forensicstournament.net**.
2. **All students and coaches will be required to submit phone numbers they can be reached at during the tournament.** Personal phone numbers are strongly preferred. Anyone unwilling to share personal numbers should take advantage of opportunities provided by Google Voice (or equivalent technology). Each accompanying coach (the "Coach in Charge") is responsible for being able to contact all of their students and judges at any given moment. Phone numbers will not be retained or utilized by tournament administrators beyond the boundaries of any given tournament. These numbers will be used only for tournament administration purposes.
3. Registration will be held outside of Watson 237. Coaches should check-in with their students prior to Registration to ensure that all competitors are present, accounted for, and able to participate in the tournament.

4. At the beginning of each round, all tournament participants should be in their competition rooms at least 5 minutes before the scheduled round.
5. **Post-round critiques are discouraged.** In absolutely no instance should oral critiques extend beyond an absolute maximum of 5 minutes past the end of the last speech OR interfere with the beginning of the next round.
6. **Postings will be made available in the Common Room.** Since the exact amount of time it will take to determine breaks will vary from tournament to tournament, students and judges should keep a close eye on what happens in the Common Room following the completion of the last preliminary round. Whenever feasible, an e-mail blast will also be sent from the tournament administrators.
7. Following the completion of final rounds, all participants should join the appropriate Common Room. Awards will be announced in this room ASAP. Whenever feasible, group texts will also be sent from the tournament administrators to the phone numbers provided by judges/students at this time to inform them that awards are starting.

TIME: GRACE PERIODS AND TECHNICAL ERRORS

1. Traditional Parli time limits will continue to be observed:

- 1st Affirmative Constructive - 7 minutes
- Flex Time - 2 minutes
- 1st Negative Constructive - 8 minutes
- Flex Time - 2 minutes
- 2nd Affirmative Constructive - 8 minutes
- Flex Time - 1 minute
- 2nd Negative Constructive - 8 minutes
- 1st Negative Rebuttal - 4 minutes
- Flex Time - 1 minute
- 1st Affirmative Rebuttal - 4 minutes

IN-ROUND PROCEDURES

STRIKE PROCEDURE

1. Once all participants are present in the competition room, the judge must share the list of Resolution options for the round.
2. After a decision has been made, each debater must announce to the judge and opponents which resolution they have decided to strike. The judge will then announce the final resolution both orally and in the chat. Prep time will then begin!

PREP PROCEDURE

1. Participants should remain in their competition rooms once prep begins.
2. Internet research **IS** allowed during prep time.

DEBATE PROCEDURE

1. After the conclusion of prep time, all debaters should turn on their audio and video functions. Parliamentary debaters should inform the judge (providing both their first and last names) of their chosen speaker roles (Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, Member of Government, or Member of Opposition).
2. **Time:** Participants should keep their own time while speaking, but judges should also time speakers and are strongly encouraged to provide time signals.

POST-ROUND PROCEDURE AND BALLOT SUBMISSION

1. Again, post-round judge critiques are discouraged and must not exceed an absolute maximum of five minutes!
2. Ballots and tournament tab sheets will be emailed directly to the accompanying coach as soon as possible after the conclusion of the tournament.

Tournament Rules:

1. People not involved in the specific debate round may take notes as long as the note taker has the permission of the contestants.
2. There will be no coaching during prep time.
3. Individual Speaker Awards will be given to the top 5 varsity, and top 5 novice speakers.
4. Team Awards will be given to all teams in out rounds.
5. A novice is defined as a competitor in their 1st year of collegiate debate competition (no more than 2 tournaments previously competed at in past years). Anyone with more experience will be considered a varsity competitor. If you have questions, please direct them to the tournament director.

6. The tournament director has the right to update, adapt, add, and interpret all of the rules of the tournament.

2025 Tentative Tournament Schedule

*Schedule may change due to entries and need for quarter and semi-finals.

11:00 - Registration -Watson 237

11:30 - ROUND ONE

12:45 - ROUND TWO

2:00 - ROUND THREE

3:15 - ROUND FOUR

5:00 - Semis & Novice Finals

6:15 - Finals

ASAP - Awards