



November 11, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

The Vanderbilt University Debate Squad and the Department of Communication Studies invite you and your teams to the 1st Annual Vanderbilt British Parliamentary Debate Tournament to be held February 1-2, 2020. All schools are welcome.

Lindsey Dixon will be the Chief Adjudicator for the tournament and she will be putting together an outstanding co-CA team (who we will announce at a later date). Will Silberman will be running the tab room.

The tournament will have an Open division of English-as-a-Primary-Language BP debate. If numbers warrant, we will have separate elimination and speaker awards for novice and English-as-a-Second-Language speakers. In addition, we will offer an Open Spanish language division of BP debate. Entries are due by 5pm CST on January 24, 2020.

We will provide breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Snacks will also be provided throughout the tournament.

Please make initial hotel reservations as soon as possible. Nashville is experiencing a significant hotel shortage, and you may have much difficulty booking rooms if you delay.

We look forward to seeing you all in February.

Sincerely,

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**TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

Entries: We will be using the Forensics Tournament for entries. Please register your teams, judges, and observers by January 24, 2020 at 5pm CST at:

<https://forensicstournament.net/vanderbilt/20>

Divisions: Open EPL BP and Open Spanish Language BP. Please send novice (within first year of college debate) and ESL designations to john.p.koch@vanderbilt.edu before January 24 at 5pm CST.

JUDGES: We will use n-1 for determining judging commitment. For example, if you have 3 teams, you will need to provide 2 judges. All judges are obligated 1 elimination round after their teams are eliminated. The uncovered judge fee will be \$100 per uncovered team.

AWARDS: All teams reaching elimination rounds will receive awards. We will be breaking to semi-finals in Open EPL BP. We will break to semi-finals in Open Spanish if numbers warrant. Otherwise, we will break to finals in all other categories. In addition, speaker awards will be given to the top 10 speakers in each division.

FEES: Entry fees of \$75 per person (including judges and observers) will be collected at registration. These fees help cover the four meals and the cost of trophies.

DEADLINES: 1.) All teams must be entered on Forensics Tournament (link above) by January 24, 2020 at 5pm CST, 2.) All designations of novice and ESL must be sent to john.p.koch@vanderbilt.edu by 5pm CST on January 24, 2020, and 3.) All dietary restrictions or accommodation requests should be communicated to john.p.koch@vanderbilt.edu by January 24, 2020 at 5pm CST.

TRANSPORTATION: Nashville and Vanderbilt are easily accessible by I-24, I-40, and I-65. In addition, Nashville Airport (BNA) is serviced by most major airlines. You are likely to find the best rates and times through Southwest Airlines, as roughly 60% of all flights in and out of BNA are through them.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE to HOTEL: We recommend using Airport Express (615) 275-1180. Lyft/Uber are also readily available in Nashville and you can expect to pay around \$20 for a ride from the airport to the hotels.

RENTAL VEHICLES: As noted above, Lyft/Uber are readily available at all times of the day in Nashville. Additionally, the Holiday Inn Vanderbilt Downtown tournament hotel is within walking distance of competition buildings/rooms. The other hotel, Holiday Inn Express-White Bridge, would require you to either have a rental vehicle or Lyft/Uber to the tournament.

TOURNAMENT HOTELS: We have reserved a block of rooms at two area hotels.



- 1.) The Holiday Inn Nashville-Vanderbilt Downtown. This hotel is within walking distance of the tournament and dining establishments. It is also a short and inexpensive Uber/Lyft ride away from the restaurants and night life of downtown Nashville. We have secured a rate of \$139.00 a night for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights.

You can reserve rooms with this Link: [Vanderbilt University Forensics](#)

If you would rather call, reference block code **VFG** when speaking with reservations at [1-615-327-4707](tel:1-615-327-4707). Blocked rooms will be held until **Tuesday, December 31st, 2019**.

- 2.) The other hotel is the Holiday Inn-White Bridge. It is a 10-15 minute drive from the university and is on the west side of the city, so a 15-20 minute ride from downtown. We have secured a rate there of \$149.00 a night for Friday and Saturday nights. If you need to stay Sunday night, they may give you the same rate, but you will need to call.

You can book rooms at this link [Vanderbilt Debate Tournament Online Booking Link](#) or by calling [1.888.465.4329](tel:1.888.465.4329) and using Group Code: **VAN**. The Cut-off date is **Jan 1, 2020**.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Friday January 31, 2020

6pm-9pm: Registration and Coaches Reception at the Holiday Inn Nashville-Vanderbilt Downtown Hotel

Saturday February 1, 2020

8:30am: Sign-in and Breakfast

9:15: Judge and Debater Briefing

9:45: Round 1 Motion

11:45: Round 2 Motion

1:45: Lunch

2:30: Round 3 Motion

4:30: Round 4 Motion



Sunday February 2, 2020

9:00 Sign-in and Breakfast

9:45 Round 5 Motion

11:45: Breaks/Awards/Lunch

1:00: Semis EPL/Spanish (may break to finals), Novice Finals, ESL Finals

3:00: EPL Finals/Spanish Finals (if the division has semi-finals)