



# MOTIF DEBATE

Dear Debate Community,

Motif Debate cordially invites you to compete in our online debate tournament series — with monthly tournaments that you can compete in throughout the year.

## **Our tournament experience at a glance:**

- Outstanding academic competition against debaters from across the country
- High level feedback from experienced, quality judges
- Efficient tournament schedule
- Compete from the comfort of your own home

## **Why online tournaments?**

Often students want to attend more tournaments, but high travel costs, lengthy travel time, and limited school resources stand in their way... But now, Motif Debate makes it easier, with a more convenient and affordable tournament experience!

Our online tournament series eliminates high costs and long time commitments related to attending a tournament, so students can compete, learn, and improve as debaters, more often and more easily. Get the national debate tournament experience from the comfort of your own home.

- No costly plane tickets or hotels
- No long bus rides or car rentals
- No school days missed
- No judging requirements
- No school or parent chaperones necessary
- No long waits or delays due to locked rooms or people getting lost

## **Where to find us, how to follow us on social media, and how to learn more:**

- <https://motif-debate.com>
- Follow us:
  - <https://www.facebook.com/motif.debate>
  - <https://www.twitter.com/motifdebate>
  - <https://www.instagram.com/motifdebate/>



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## How do our tournaments work?

We run our tournaments using the Motif debate platform. Debate rounds will use Motif's debate platform. Judges and debaters will open a link to join the debate room each time a round begins. We use the Tabroom website for tabulation and support. Judges will complete and submit ballots online through the tabroom website. Pairings will be posted on the tournament website and on Tabroom. The pairings will include a link to the room the debater must join to start their round.

During the tournament, general communications sent to tournament competitors will come through Slack. Personal notifications, such as reminders that a round will begin, or receiving your ballots after a tournament, will be done through email or texting.

At the end of the tournament, there will be a quick awards ceremony on Slack, and everyone will receive their ballots electronically.

What you must do first, to compete:

1. Register for our online tournament at [www.motif-debate.com](http://www.motif-debate.com)
2. Download motif and complete the short motif orientation, to make sure you are familiar with it and know how to use it before the tournament.
3. On the day of the tournament, be online on time for the tournament check-in, and then the debates will begin!

Tournament schedule overview:

- The tournaments will promptly begin at 8AM PST and end by 4PM PST. The tournament has **four rounds**. The tournament is run online by Motif Debate, and **runs a total of 8 hours from start to finish**. Debaters from all US time zones are welcome to attend. Students from different time zones will be competing in these tournaments at the same time, so each time zone has its own schedule.
- No additional time is needed for travel, finding rooms, etc.



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## Judge Info:

- **You do not need to provide your own judges.** We will hire our own pool of highly qualified judges to provide detailed feedback. Debaters will receive both verbal feedback at the end of rounds and written feedback on ballots at the end of the tournament.
- If you do give us a highly qualified judge who is not in our judge pool already, and that judge fulfills the judging responsibility punctually and properly for the full tournament, we'll give you a \$50 discount on the next Motif debate tournament you attend.
- We may cap events to ensure a high quality judge pool and sufficient numbers. If you are waitlisted, we will do our best to hire more judges and promptly remove you from the waitlist and enter you into the tournament. When we do so, we will notify you via email.

**Web-Based Registration:** All students register and pay on the Motif website. On the day of the tournament, students and judges will use [motif-debate.com](http://motif-debate.com) and [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com) for round postings and results.

**Entries:** A coach can register students, but students can also register themselves independently. This tournament is open for high school debaters who attend a diploma-granting secondary school. Students must register on the Motif Debate League website. PF partners do not need to be from the same school. However, we cannot guarantee that a hybrid PF team will never hit entries from both of their schools.

## Entry Fees:

- Lincoln-Douglas                      \$75 per person
- Public Forum                            \$55 per person, \$110 per team

Our entry fees enable us to hire a high quality judge pool.

## Drop Fees:

All drops made after the registration due date (usually Tuesday the week of the tournament) at 5:00PM PST will forfeit their entry fees.

## Payments:

Payments are accepted through the Motif website, by Paypal, or by credit card.

**What you need:** A laptop running Chrome, a webcam, microphone and speaker, a solid internet connection, your debate cases, pen/paper.

**Food:** Rounds are spaced two hours apart and are single flighted. This gives everyone ample time between rounds for food, restroom breaks, extra research, etc. We recommend that you prepare a meal before the tournament begins to save time between rounds.



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## ***Event Rules***

**Debate Divisions:** We will be using a 30-point scale that allows for tenth points for speaker points, within the range of 22-30 points. We do NOT allow low-point wins or ties. We encourage disclosure of decisions and discussion of all debates within reason (we must keep the tournament on time). All debates must have one winner and one loser. Tiebreakers if necessary will be, in this order: record, adjusted points, total points, judge variance, opponent wins.

Being more than 5 minutes late auto-forfeits your round.

**Use of Technology in Debate Rounds:** For Public Forum and Lincoln Douglas Debate, use of laptop computers, tablet computers, smartphones and other electronic devices able to access the internet are permitted during events. The use of computers during debates is permitted for both flowing and research purposes including retrieval of evidence stored on hard drives, accessing resources via the internet, and fact-checking/source verification. Students may not use electronic devices to communicate with outside parties during a debate. The penalty for violation of this rule is loss of the debate in question, zero speaker points assigned to the offending debater, ejection from the remainder of the tournament, and exclusion from future Motif tournaments.

**Lincoln-Douglas:** This open division includes varsity, junior varsity, and novice debaters. Lincoln-Douglas debaters will be allowed four minutes of preparation time. All power-matched rounds (beginning after round 1) will be high/low within brackets. The resolution will be the NSDA topic of the appropriate month. *For further clarification, see the National Speech and Debate Association [rules](#) for Lincoln-Douglas.*

**Public Forum:** This open division includes varsity, junior varsity, and novice debaters. Public Forum debaters will be allowed 2 minutes for preparation time. All power-matched rounds (beginning after round 1) will be high/low within brackets. The resolution will be the NSDA topic of the appropriate month. *For further clarification, see the National Speech and Debate Association [rules](#) for Public Forum.*

## **Source Integrity**

All students must have available PDF files or urls of all sources, which must include the full text, context, and citation, not simply a retyped list of short sentences and quotes (or photos or scanned pages from books). Debaters must make these sources available to their opponent(s) in the round and/or their judges after the round upon request. Debaters failing to do so and debaters who misrepresent sources in the round may be disqualified at tab's discretion.

**NSDA Points:** Coaches are welcome to enter NSDA points for their students who compete in our online tournaments!



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## ***Judge Information***

Our judges are qualified judges. They understand the activity, speak English, and are experienced sitting in the back of the room flowing the round and/or have been carefully trained by an experienced coach. They know how to assign ranks, wins/losses, speaker points, and how to fill out a ballot. All of our judges should have published paradigms on tabroom.com.

## **MJP:**

In some of our tournaments, depending on the size of the debate field, LD debaters will be able to select rankings for the judge pool using Mutual Judge Preferencing (MJP) on tabroom.com. MJP will begin Tuesday morning prior to the tournament, and end Thursday evening.

## ***The Four Round Guarantee***

Sometimes there will be an odd number of entries in the tournament. If that happens, in each round, one entry will get a BYE. That entry will not debate in that round. They will receive a win for that round, and the speaker points for that round will be an average of their speaker points in the other three rounds. This win and these speaker points will be calculated in the final results and awards of the tournament. At the end of the tournament, this situation would leave 4 debaters/entries who have only had 3 debates. Immediately after the awards ceremony, those debaters are invited to have a 4th round, with one of our judges, and with a ballot and judge feedback. That 4th round's results will not be added into the final standings of the tournament, but it does guarantee every student the opportunity to have 4 debate rounds.

## ***Tab & Ballots***

### **Open Tab & Results**

Pairings will be posted online. We publicly post the results of every round in LD and PF after each round is tabbed. Although judges are not required to disclose their decisions, they are highly encouraged to do so, and should definitely give feedback and critiques. We will be using e-balloting. We will post more information at the start of the tournament as needed.

### **Ballots and Awards:**

Awards will be given to the top 5 competitors or the top 10% of competitors in each event. The award will be available within the Motif Debate League web portal for winners to download and print. Results and ballots will be accessible and downloadable through tabroom.com at the end of the tournament.



# MOTIF DEBATE

## ***Protests***

Although we never hope for protests, we handle them fairly, efficiently and professionally. All protests, questions, and comments will be handled via email at [debate@usermotif.com](mailto:debate@usermotif.com). The tournament will provide a submission form on Tabroom on which protests are to be filed. Please include your name, phone number, the round, and all potentially relevant details in the email. Protests must be filed before the next round is paired and released. Report and submit protests immediately, in the event that they do occur.

All **evidence challenges** in Debate Events are handled in round and are not considered protests, so they are not submitted to Motif Debate administration. Motif Debate administration will only help the judge in understanding the rules and process, not in making the decision.

**Harassment, discrimination, and all other reports, concerns, complaints or challenges** should be submitted to Motif Debate administration.

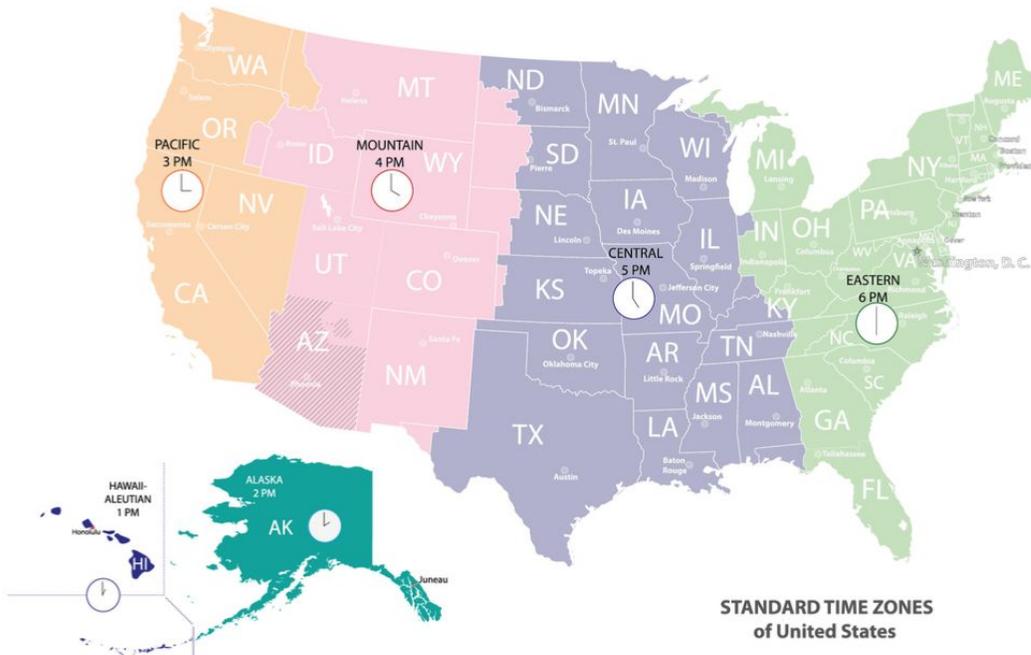
Decisions of Motif Debate administration are final and are not appealable.



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## TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE BY DIFFERENT TIME ZONES:

	ALASKA	PACIFIC	MOUNTAIN	CENTRAL	EASTERN
		PDT	MDT	CDT	EDT
<b>Mandatory Online Check-In</b>	6:30 AM	7:30 AM	8:30 AM	9:30 AM	10:30 AM
<b>Round 1 Posted</b>	6:50 AM	7:50 AM	8:50 AM	9:50 AM	10:50 AM
<b>Round 1</b>	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM
<b>Round 2</b>	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
<b>Round 3</b>	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM
<b>Round 4</b>	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM
<b>Results, Ballots, Awards Posted</b>	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM





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## Future Tournaments for 2019:

<b>Lincoln Douglas</b>	<b>Public Forum</b>
Saturday, August 24	Sunday, August 25
Sunday, September 22	Saturday, September 21
Saturday, October 12	Sunday, October 13
Sunday, November 17	Saturday, November 16
Saturday, December 14	Sunday, December 15

## Feedback

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our tournament experience. Please let us know your feedback and suggestions at [debate@usermotif.com](mailto:debate@usermotif.com). We would love to hear your thoughts and experiences!

The information within this invitation and on our tournament website, <https://motifdebate.com>, should answer most questions you may have about our tournament. If you need additional assistance, please email us at [debate@usermotif.com](mailto:debate@usermotif.com).

## Code of Conduct

By registering, you are consenting to follow and respect our guidelines outlined in our Code of Conduct on <https://motifdebate.com>,

Thank you! If you need any additional information, **email us at [debate@usermotif.com](mailto:debate@usermotif.com)**.

Allan Jiang  
Director of Technology  
Motif Debate

David Childree  
Director of Tournaments  
Motif Debate