

Palo Alto High School Speech And Debate Team

TEAM HANDBOOK SPEECH AND DEBATE

Democracy is a contact sport. Everyone gets bruises. Even the winners. And the kind of bickering we see today is not only unproductive.

It's cowardly.

If you don't have the guts to focus on ideas and stop tearing down individuals, you belong in the stands, not on the field. I want more leaders who are brave enough to focus on ideas and not ad hominem attacks. I want more leaders who are willing to say, "I hate everything she stands for, but I do not hate her. And neither should you."

And I want more Americans who demand these kinds of debates for the sake of our democracy. Just ideas against ideas, let them fight it out, and if you lose, come back with better ideas.

Tony was right. A rumble can be clenched by a fair fight if you've got the guts to risk that. Are millions of Americans ready to start fighting fair for the sake of our democracy? For the sake of solving common problems we all face?

Joshua Johnson, NPR

Atlantic Monthly, "The Highest Form of Disagreement"

Palo Alto High School Speech and Debate Team Mission Statement

The mission of the Palo Alto High School Speech and Debate Team is to develop critical thinking, public speaking, and debate skills; to create an inclusive and supportive forensics community; and to instill the value of lifelong rigorous intellectual and competitive integrity in our students.

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Palo Alto High School Speech and Debate Team



Dear students and parents,

My 14 years at Paly as coach, manager, and team director have been highly challenging and rewarding, and I'm excited as we venture into our 15th speech and debate season together. Last year, we were the California State Lincoln-Douglas Debate Champions, Speech semifinalists, and Congressional Debate Finalists. We were in the quarterfinals of the National Championship in LD debate and in Semifinals in Congressional Debate. We earned trophies and placements at every Speech and Debate tournament we attended. What a great place to be!

Our team not only is developing the amazing talents of each student but also deep bonds that make our time and effort worthwhile. This season promises to be a highly competitive and successful year for our team, and I'm looking forward to a strong presence in the Bay Area and to a triumphant showing nationally. *It is important, however, that we don't allow competition to take over our focus.* My concern, as always, is that this is an educational year full of personal growth, support, and laughter. I want each student to find individual meaning in her speech and debate participation that goes beyond trophies, ranks, and the judgment of others.

Participation in this activity in high school significantly impacted my life, both educationally and personally. I hope you will benefit similarly. Speech and debate not only gives a student the skills to excel at the highest levels academically and professionally -- preparing him or her for the rigors of college and career -- but it also creates life-long friendships, generates civic responsibility, opens a person to the world, nurtures tolerance, encourages a self-examined life, builds character in the face of adversity, challenges a person to take risks, and establishes confidence, poise, and a sense of self. These are the important rewards.

You will have opportunities to compete in Speech, Congress and LD. While travel spots to States and Nationals will go to the most advanced competitors, opportunities have been built into the schedule for all. Most importantly, we should strive to continue a strong local presence at CFL and in the persuasive debate community.

I'm excited this year to welcome back our outstanding coaches: Danielle Mitalipov, Sarah Youngquist, Ben Anderson, Emma Abdullah, Alex Millard, and David Jakubowicz and to have the founder of our Congressional debate squad, Ujwal Srivastava, join us as a coach. In addition, former Paly debater/speechie and longtime coach Candace Wang returns this year as assistant director of the entire program. For more information about them, please see their bios at the end of this handbook.

Finally, forensics demands a lot of time outside classes. Just as musicians and athletes, students can't expect to be accomplished competitors without serious commitment and practice. I'm willing work hard to help my students reach their goals and for sanity's sake, there need to be limits. Along with being Director, I am a mother of three, the daughter of an aging parent, a non-profit board and University Board member, and active in my community. I'd appreciate students respecting these limits by cutting off phone calls and non-urgent texts to me by 10 pm, and setting some of their own.

Much communication will be done via email, both with students and with parents. Please check your email frequently! And, **PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE HANDBOOK.** It contains mostly everything you need to know about the speech debate team, and students will be held responsible for its contents. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to ask.

CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

The Palo Alto High School Speech and Debate Team functions as a team and association membership dues, facilities fees, coaching, judging, speech and debate materials, tournament fees, and chaperoning fees are paid for through private donations and team fundraisers. During the summer, the team organizes and conducts a speech and debate camp for middle schoolers that has raised significant amounts of money in the past, which is why your suggested contribution levels are so low.

FEES:

We ask that team families consider voluntarily contributing \$350 or more per student. Please make your check out to "Palo Alto High School/Speech and Debate" and mail them to our parent advisor Sarah Longstreth or hand them to Jennie.

Because the Paly is a 501(c)3 organization, the activity contribution is entirely tax-deductible. The team has received generous donations above the club dues in the past both from parents and from the corporations for which the parents and families work. We encourage you to check with your employer about the possibility of a matching grant. There is a form in the Paly auditor's office for you to fill out if you'd like to do this.

Please note that if your student leaves or is asked to leave the team for any reason, the club contribution will not be refunded.

NON-FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

Our debate league requires parents to judge at tournaments. Every 3 competitors require 1 judge to cover them at each tournament, so parents will be required to judge or provide their own judge that they find (an adult family member, friend, neighbor, etc) at at least 2 tournaments per season. The requirements are: basic understanding of English (ESL is fine,) 18 years or older, and that you have a Tabroom.com judge account. SET UP YOUR JUDGE ACCOUNT NOW, please!

Finally, your being on the team amounts to an agreement to know and abide by team rules.

+ This team believes in making speech and debate accessible to all. A limited amount of financial aid to cover the activity contribution and/or some travel is available through the parent coordinator Sarah Longstreth. To be eligible, start by talking to Jennie.

TYPES OF SPEECH AND DEBATE AT PALY

Our team is divided into three squads: Lincoln-Douglas debate (LD), Student Congress, and Speech/ or Individual Events (IEs) Students may compete in as many categories as they wish.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE (LD)

Individual students argue issues concerning morality and values, such as liberty, justices, the public good, and equality. The event is named for the 1858 debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas in their race for a U. S. Senate seat. The issues at the time were slavery and the rights of states to local control. Topics, or resolutions, change every two months. Students must prepare to argue both sides. Competitors rely on ethical and philosophical analysis, grappling with such questions as: How do you determine what is "good" for society? What civic duties do people have? What human rights should the government protect? When should these rights be limited? Rounds last about 40 minutes. Tournaments usually hold four to six preliminary rounds, octofinals, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals. (Example resolutions: The United States has a moral obligation to mitigate international conflicts; Terminally ill patients have the right to die how they choose; A just government should provide health care to its citizens.)

ORIGINAL ORATORY (OO)

In *Original Oratory*, a competitor prepares a speech on a topic of his or her choosing, and can be informative or persuasive in nature. Often, a competitor may use only one speech for the entire season. The purpose of *Oratory* is to inspire belief or reinforce conviction, and is generally delivered without the use of visual aids or notes. Speeches are generally between eight and ten minutes in length.

ORIGINAL ADVOCACY (OA)

In OA, the speaker writes an original speech and then delivers it in competition. The speech is to be memorized, within time limits (typically ten minutes), and can quote no more than 150 words. An advocacy is a persuasive speech which presents a timely problem and a convincing, practical solution. The speaker must make the audience aware of a problem or concern and must offer a solution by advocating a specific legislative and/or regulatory government action. An OA is to be factual and researched. The speaker has complete freedom on what topic of speech to choose.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Competitors are given a topic, usually a single word or phrase that may be a person, thing, well-known saying, a less well-known [quotation](#), current event, or an object. They then compose a speech based on the prompt. *Impromptu* speeches generally run about four to six minutes in length, with anywhere from 15 seconds to five minutes of "prep time". Judging typically focuses on overall speaking ability (enunciation, pace, vocal variety, etc.), creativeness (pre-made or "canned" speeches are generally frowned upon), and overall balance of the speech (points of roughly equal length, appropriate length of intro, conclusion, etc.). In many states, impromptu speaking is often a contest

combining wit and humor with actual insight; speeches should be funny but also must deliver a point. Acting out characters, as in drama events is generally frowned upon.

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION (DI)

Dramatic Interpretation (DI) is an event in which the competitor interprets a selection from a dramatic theatrical script. A single competitor plays several parts, which are differentiated using "pops" between various positions and voices, each representing a different character. "Pops" are supposed to be as clean as possible, and each character should be clearly distinguishable from any other character. One can also play one character.

HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION (HI)

Humorous Interpretation (HI) is the humorous alternative to DI. In this event the competitor will perform an eight to ten minute selection of a literary work of a humorous nature. As in DI, characters are distinguished through the use of "pops" and voice work.

DUO INTERPRETATION (DUO)

Much like DI and HI, Duo pieces have at least two parts, to be performed by two people. The principles are generally the same, except there are two performers instead of just one. In Duo, the actors are not allowed to make physical or eye contact, or use props. They are also not permitted to touch the ground with anything but their feet.

ORIGINAL PROSE AND POETRY

In Original Prose and Poetry, or OPP, you write and present a piece composed of original prose, poetry or a combination of prose and poetry. This event provides an opportunity for "creative" writers to present their work to an audience. The material may be humorous, dramatic, or a combination. The competition in this event is challenging because the material varies so widely. OPP combines the originality of oratory and the creativity of interpretation.

Student Congressional Debate

A simulation of the U.S. legislative process in the Senate and the House, students generate a series of bills and resolutions for debate in Congressional Debate. Debaters (also referred to as Senators and Representatives) alternate delivering speeches for and against the topic in a group setting. An elected student serves as a presiding officer to ensure debate flows smoothly. Students are assessed on their research, argumentation, and delivery skills, as well as their knowledge and use of parliamentary procedure.

PRACTICES

LD squad **novice** practices occur from 7-9 pm on Tuesday evenings the first semester. Second semester, it meets with the varsity, and 5-7 pm practice rounds are available then.

LD **varsity** squad practices occur on Tuesday nights from 5-9 pm – come any time in that frame.

Speech/Congress practice is on Tuesdays 7-9 pm.

We pretty much follow the PAUSD calendar year with a few exceptions – we start mid-September and we end formal practices in March.

Club meets in the 800 building. Practice debates and practice interps occur in surrounding classrooms as needed. At least one coach will be present at each to provide lessons, drills, and coaching during practice debates. **Students are expected to conduct research and write cases outside of these practices.** Coaches will review cases, blocks, and extensions and interp or oratorical pieces via email and in person.

1. Each debater must come to practice equipped with pens, paper, cases/blocks, relevant old flows, laptop if desired, and timer.
2. Each IEr must come with scripts, paper, pens, and anything else necessary.
3. During practice round nights, *each debater must arrive prior to 5 or 7 pm*, pre-flowed, with complete cases, flow papers, pen, and timer.
4. We should be doing debate/speech work during debate/IEs practice. If you need to do homework, please stay home. Do NOT come to practice with a laptop and use that laptop for anything other than debate/IEs.
5. It is imperative that you come to practice *on time*. We have a lot to cover in a short amount of time.
6. Attendance at practice is expected and highly encouraged. **It is mandatory if you are scheduled to lead a novice lecture or participate in a practice round, either as a judge or as a debater.** Please keep in mind that *you will get out of speech and debate what you put into it*. If you miss practice, you will miss the benefits reaped by the rest of your team.
7. Sometimes debaters/IEs have other extracurricular activities that conflict with practice during certain seasons. It is the student's responsibility to meet with Jennie to work out an alternative arrangement to practice that will leave him/her eligible to compete that season.
8. Be respectful, considerate, and honest with your coaches and teammates. You will be treated in kind. **There are two major rules on this team: 1) treat others the way you would like to be treated and 2) if you make a mistake, clean it up quickly and thoroughly.** (Jennie is able to help you with this if you need it.)

**** Parents and family are always welcome at practices** and are encouraged to judge practice rounds to help the team prepare for local tournaments. If you are interested in donating your time to helping your student in this way, please let Jennie know.

Tournament Nuts & Bolts



In debate, we compete on two circuits: the local “CFL” circuit (persuasive debate in front of parents of local debaters competing against only local schools) and the “Invitational” circuit (national or regional tournaments with a variety of judging styles.) We provide plenty of opportunities on each circuit. While we encourage students to try both, many gravitate towards one style. Both have tremendous advantages and are considered equally relevant and useful.

A calendar of tournaments we are scheduled to attend is located at the back of this handbook. Tournaments may be added or dropped depending on interest.

Local tournaments:

Local CFL tournaments last one day – usually Saturday or Sunday. There are 3 varsity debate tournaments and 1 novice tournament during the year, and three varsity IEs tournament and 1 novice IE and 3 Congress tournaments before the championship qualifying tournaments begin in March.

There are high entry caps at these tournaments, so most folks will be able attend. Entry fees are negligible -- \$15 – and students miss no school. **Parents, however, are required to judge at these events in order for their students to compete.** If your speechie or debater plans to compete at local tournaments, you will be required to judge at half of them. Our team does know a small number of outside judges willing to be hired in your spot if you cannot attend the tournament or do not speak English. **If you cannot find someone able to take your place judging, it is your responsibility to find and hire a judge.** Contact Jennie immediately you sign up for a tournament if you hired a judge to take your place.

National and Invitational Tournaments:

Invitational tournaments will be longer, often departing on Thursday or Friday and continuing until Sunday or Monday. It is not uncommon for students to compete from Friday afternoon until around midnight, only to begin again early Saturday morning and then repeat that for a few days.

These tournaments have strict entry caps, thus spots are reserved for the most competitive debaters/speechies on the squad. Most limit varsity entrants to 4-6. If there’s a JV division, it’s usually 3-4. Jennie believes strongly in every varsity debater, regardless of prior record, having a chance to attend an invitational tournament, so there are plenty of tournaments on the schedule from which to choose.

For tournaments, Jennie will send out a sign-up email for debaters to be considered for a slot. She will notify debaters who earn a slot in plenty of time to arrange for travel and missed classes.

What happens when I get chosen to attend a travel tournament?

- 1) The first thing to do is get your signed medical waiver to Jennie.** Scan it and email it to her. She will fill out the top portion. Forms are found on the Paly website. **Turning forms in after the deadline will result in stiff fines.**
- 2) Jennie will send out a trip dossier to students and parents about 3 weeks prior to the tournament. In it will be details about hotel, ground transportation, fees, and

tournament schedule, etc. Schedules for most tournaments also can be accessed at tabroom.com

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES

Tournaments **almost always** run behind schedule. **Students and judges may not leave any tournament until it has been officially announced that they have been eliminated and they have Jennie's permission to depart.** There are no exceptions to this rule unless there is an emergency. Students may not concede rounds to leave for another engagement. Concessions, for any reason, are unacceptable unless Jennie has given approval for competitive reasons. Long hours are part of this activity. Students and parents should count on this when planning their weekends. A student and her parent should not sign up for a tournament if s/he cannot stay the course.

DROP FEES

Ethics of this team include following through on commitments and finding a balance between schoolwork and outside activities. **If you sign up for a tournament, you are expected to attend the entirety of it.** Occasionally, circumstances occur that require a student to forgo a tournament s/he was committed to attending (illness, death in the family, etc.) Homework and tests are NOT legitimate reasons not to attend a tournament you've signed up to attend, so keep that in mind when you register.

Once a student has signed up for a tournament and received confirmation from Jennie, his/her entry is binding! Jennie will complete registration immediately following sign up. If a student has to drop out after s/he has been registered, s/he must do so as early as possible. Tournaments will charge a "drop" fee when this happens. **A student is responsible for paying all drop fees.** Drop fees are usually loss of the entry fee or double the entry fee (\$50-100). Drop fees grow steeper the closer we get to a tournament and **can increase up to triple the entry fee on the day of the competition \$100+.** Sometimes, if a student can find a teammate to take his/her place, there are no drop fees.

Notifying Jennie ahead of time is the student's responsibility. Students need to be especially conscientious about signing up for tournaments out of town. Judges are hired, chaperones recruited, hotel rooms reserved, and transportation organized based on each entry. Please be considerate of the team and of the tournament directors. Dropped entries are a HUGE hassle and a major reason that tournaments always run late.

SUPPLIES

- **All debaters need a timer.** Cellphone timers are permissible. Some students actually may wish to bring two timers to tournaments, one to lend to judges and one to use themselves. Students are encouraged to keep their timers with their school supplies so that they can use them for practice in class.
- All debaters need pens in different colors and blank computer paper.
- LD debaters need Expando files.
- Many debaters use laptops at national tournaments, so if you have one, you might consider using it for debate, although I discourage it because it negatively affects speaking style. Laptops are frowned upon at certain tournaments.

- ALL debaters must bring paper copies of their cases and blocks to tournaments!

WHAT TO WEAR

As Jennie is not a “cool” coach, students are expected to dress professionally for competitions. They need to dress conservatively; a good guide is to look like a lawyer entering the courtroom. Typically, speechies and debaters should wear suits (either pant or skirt), skirt/slacks with button down shirt/blouse and jacket or dress sweater, and hard shoes. It is best to stick with darker colors, such as black and navy. Students will be on their feet a lot. Students may want to bring a pair of tennis shoes or flip-flops for down time between rounds or for walking across campuses. Boys: NO WHITE SOCKS!

Apparel is particularly important at CFL tournaments where perception counts more than argumentation often. It is worth investing in a nice suit and shoes. If you're loath to spend money on clothes you won't wear much, check out The Shop on Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park. They sell great inexpensive second-hand designer clothes.

MISSED CLASSES

For invitational tournaments that require travel, students may miss one to three days of school depending on the competition schedule. When students are going to miss classes, it is their responsibility to communicate with their teachers well ahead of time. Students should get assignments in advance and complete them as their teachers require. Each debater on the team contributes to the debate program's role in campus life. When we are considerate of teachers, they will support us. It is imperative that each team member is timely, respectful, and positive in handling absences. One debater can influence the team's image overall, impacting how all debaters are received when they miss school. **Students should avoid being absent the day of or after a speech and debate trip.** There is some time at tournaments to do homework. Students should make the most of their down time.

TRANSPORTATION

*All parents driving debaters other than their own to/from practices, local tournaments, or airports *must* have a transportation waiver on file with Jennie – no exceptions. These waivers have been distributed twice as email attachments and in person. If you still need one, please let Jennie know ASAP.*

Transportation not will be provided by Paly to and from local tournaments. **Getting there and back is each student's responsibility.** If students have permission from their parents and are of legal age, they may drive themselves to and from local tournaments. Students driving themselves should always arrive 30 minutes before their first round and find the team in the registration area. Above all, check in! Let Jennie know and the registration desk know that you have arrived. As Jennie and other coaches will often have judging/tab room duties, it is the student's responsibility to know when and where rounds start.

Students should be pre-flowed and at their assigned rooms before their rounds are scheduled to begin. Students also should make sure Jennie is aware of their travel plans in advance to ensure they are not left behind. Students may not dismiss themselves from a tournament at any time. They will be dismissed only after a posting has been released officially confirming their elimination. A student is never to assume she has been eliminated until the posting has been released and should not leave without checking out. Jennie or the assigned chaperone will remain at the tournament until the final Paly student is eliminated. Students relying on her for transportation

should plan to remain at the tournament until it is over. If a student who is no longer participating in rounds does not wish to stay that late, s/he should arrange for other transportation that is acceptable to his/her parents.

FOOD

Tournaments often sell food through concessions stands throughout the weekend. Typically, the food consists of items like donuts and pizza. Students may not leave campus for lunch without Jennie's permission and an adult. Students should bring money for meals. They are also encouraged to bring their own food, such as sacked lunches or healthy snacks. It is a very good idea for students to bring a bottle of water for use during rounds.

UNDERSTANDING BREAKS

When a student advances past preliminary rounds into elimination rounds, we call it "clearing" or "breaking" because s/he has broken from the pack to rank among the top competitors entered in the tournament. When a student "breaks," s/he can earn a bid toward qualifying for the national Tournament of Champions, depending on the tournament designation. It is always an honor to "break." Here is how breaks work:

- Typically 5-6 preliminary rounds
- Best win-loss records advance
- Ties are broken and seeding determined by "speaker points" awarded by judges for presentation
- Triple octos: Top 64
- Double octos: Top 32
- Octofinals: Top 16
- Quarterfinals: Top 8
- Semifinals: Top 4
- Finals: Top 2

BALLOTS & FLOWS

Most ballots are posted on line on tabroom.com the day/week following the tournament. For tournaments using paper ballots, Jennie will distribute ballots after students have completed their competition once the host school releases them. Debaters should label and save all flows for class discussions, post them in the Dropbox, and keep copies for their own rebuttal redos.

VARSITY OBLIGATIONS

Our team believes in giving back to the debate community. Each varsity debater must judge at least one novice tournament per year either at CFL, PantherFun or SCU. Please go over the schedule carefully and let Jennie know at which tournament you'll be judging. An alternative is working at the Paly Speech and Debate camp.

JUDGE PARADIGMS

The NDCA debate wiki lists all the current best-known invitational judges and their paradigms. You are encouraged to check out the judges prior to each tournament and certainly before each round.

CELL PHONES

If you own a cell phone, you must put it on silent or vibrate mode right before rounds. **Please be sure to put it back on, however, when you are finished with your round.** Tournament plans, including rooms, pairings, and judges often change at the last minute and Jennie will need to reach you right away if they do!

IN-ROUND BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to show up to their rounds early and already pre-flowed. Judges should not have to wait to begin a round. A student should always thank her judge when leaving the room. Judges will not always disclose or offer a critique, and debaters should never insist that they do so. (At CFL events, they are not allowed to offer a critique or disclose.)

A student should never argue with a judge or opponent after a round! This is one of Jennie's pet peeves. If a judge gives a critique, a student should listen, take notes, thank him/her, and then leave without any show of frustration if s/he has lost or celebration if s/he has won. A student may ask respectful questions for educational purposes only if the judge seems open to it; otherwise, s/he should refrain from it.

How a student behaves will impact our school's reputation and how judges respond to all Palo Alto debaters. If a student feels s/he has been the victim of a bad decision or of rude conduct, complaints should be saved until we leave the host campus, or a student should quietly speak with Jennie outside. *It is vital that we are not only a team with talent but also a team with character. No matter how other people behave, Palo Alto debaters will show respect at all times for what we do and for ALL people involved no matter their level of expertise or role in the activity.*

ONLINE BEHAVIOR

It is team policy to be **very** cautious when participating on the public boards. Unfortunately, even when you try to be positive or post something you think is harmless on these public boards, it is common for people to turn your positive or neutral comments into snide remarks and negativity. We do not wish for perceptions of our team to be generated based on these public boards. We prefer that our reputation come from our performance in rounds and our interpersonal interactions. If students wish to send a message to a friend in the debate community or to contribute to a discussion in a meaningful way, they should do so discreetly and politely.

If a student is rude on-line, our team rules mandate that s/he apologize publicly – on-line – for her comments.

TEAM BEHAVIOR

Your teammates are not your competitors! In fact, they are the best resource you have in the debate community. Our team shares research, blocks, cases, backfiles, and helpful suggestions. Hoarding evidence, cases, knowledge, etc is obnoxious, immature, and makes you and our team look terrible. It also creates a toxic environment for the team. If you create a case or block, you may request that your teammates not use it until you give them permission to do so.

Other Tournament Expectations



Each debater is a representative of Palo Alto High School and of our team while at tournaments, both at home and away. Students should take pride in showing not only our best talent, but our best character. Rule violations may result in loss of traveling privileges and other consequences involving team participation, a parent conference, and referral to the PAHS administration for further disciplinary action.

1. Debate tournaments are school activities. Students must abide by all Palo Alto High School rules and expectations.
2. Please be patient with your coach and teammates. We all put in long hours, experience stress, and may lack sleep. Respect relationships on the team, communicate with each other instead of gossiping, and handle problems with maturity. **Observe the Golden Rule: Treat others the way you would want to be treated. And if you make a mistake, clean it up fast and thoroughly.**
3. The team has a zero tolerance policy toward alcohol and drugs. Students who violate this rule will lose their ability to be on the team. This includes not being allowed to attend State or NSDA Nationals.
4. Avoid all negative comments about a competitor, judge, or the tournament until we are alone and away from the event. People will overhear you. We live in a small debate world.
5. Respect school and hotel property. Students must clean up after themselves and are responsible if they cause any damage.

Additional rules for out-of-town trips:

- A midnight curfew will be enforced. All students must be in their own rooms at this time and must remain in their rooms. If the tournament runs past midnight, curfew will be 15 minutes after returning to the hotel.
- Hotel room assignments made by Jennie may not be changed without her permission.
- Only Paly students are allowed in Paly rooms. Paly students may not be in any rooms occupied by another school. If members of the opposite sex wish to work together in rooms, other team members must be present **and** the door must remain propped open. By midnight, all students must be in their own rooms.
- Upon hotel checkout, students must pay any telephone, movie, or room service charges.
- No student may travel alone for any reason. Students must be in groups or with a chaperone. Students must inform Jennie of their whereabouts at all times.
- If a student has friends or relatives in the area, she must provide written permission from a parent to visit those friends or relatives in advance. This will not be allowed otherwise.
- Rule violations may result in the student being sent home at the family's expense.
- Remember that we travel to compete. Students must sleep to think and put forth their best efforts!

The Debate Alphabet



The competitions our team attends fall under the governance of 3 organizations: the CHSSA, CFL, NSDA.

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH ASSOCIATION (CHSSA)

CHSSA tournaments are hosted across the state from August through February. When students advance past preliminary rounds at these tournaments they earn points to qualify for the State Championship in March. To qualify for State, a student must accumulate a total of eight points in varsity divisions. Qualifying for State is a good goal for all students after their first year of competition. For more information on the CHSSA or for a complete CHSSA schedule, visit www.chssa.org.

COAST FORENSICS LEAGUE (CFL)

PAHSDS is a member of the Coast Forensics League (CFL, www.coastfl.org) our local division within NFL, which includes schools in Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, San Jose, Fremont, and Watsonville, and other schools in the Santa Clara Valley area. These locally-operated tournaments have lower participation costs than national ones and require a high level of parent participation as judges. ***If you have a child competing in the tournament, current rules state that you must judge or provide a judge at the tournament.*** Qualifications for local CFL judges are simply that they be at least 18 years of age, out of high school for 2 years, and can comprehend English. Jennie will hold a judge training session in the fall so that you feel comfortable judging debates. The debating style tends to be more purely “persuasion”-orientated rather than argumentation-oriented. For more information, visit www.coastfl.org

National Speech and Debate Association, formerly known as NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE (NFL)

The NFL is one of the oldest national honor societies in America. When students earn their membership, they join former presidents, successful lawyers and judges, celebrities (such as Oprah Winfrey), journalists, business pioneers, and many others who have excelled in professional life. The NFL awards points to students who compete in any type of speech or debate tournament and gives degrees as they acquire new levels of status in their debate careers. Students earn points every time they compete, win or lose, because the organization believes in rewarding participation and effort. The NFL holds district tournaments based on geographical region throughout the United States in April, winners of which advance to the NFL National Championship in June. This championship is considered to be the most inclusive in the United States and tends to reward students for being highly communicative, including their abilities to adapt to a wide variety of judge preferences and regional styles. As the governing body for forensics, the NFL also determines debate topics and sets the rules for competition. For more information on the NFL, visit <http://www.nationalforensicleague.org/>. Students can look up their NFL status here.

PASD PARTICIPATION IN TRAVEL TOURNAMENTS

TEAM TOURNAMENTS -- Select Paly competitors sometimes compete at invitationals held outside the Bay Area. All invitationals have limited entries, and **debaters/speechies attending them must travel and participate at their own expense.** At tournaments to which we take a large portion of the team, a parent chaperone might be needed to accompany us.

TRAVEL LOGISTICS

Organization and planning ahead make it easier to travel without having to spend money on forgotten items or time spent worrying about those items. An information sheet regarding leave and return times as well as hotel information and tournament specifics are given out via email to competitors and their parents well prior to the tournament.

1. All Paly permission slips **must** be signed and returned 4 weeks prior to any travel trip or to a tournament that necessitates missing school.
2. Individual team members are responsible for carrying money/ credit cards for meals, hotel fees, and extra items needed during the trip.
3. Participants in each travel tournament **must** be on the same flights (unless accompanied by a parent.) Parents and debaters will be notified of the correct flight to book by the head coach well before each tournament, and will be required to use their own credit cards to purchase the flight.
4. All efforts will be made to keep hotel costs low by sharing rooms to the extent possible. Debaters will often be sleeping two to a bed. The rooms will be **reserved** by the head coach, but must be paid for by **each** debater via cash or credit card **upon checkout** from the hotel.
5. Prior to each tournament, the head coach will collect personal checks from each debater that cover the tournament fees (which differ for each tournament) and if need be the cost of the rental car and missed judging fees. The checks will be made out to the head coach, and she in turn will use her credit card and personal check at the tournament site to cover the costs of registration and ground transportation.
6. Team members should only bring carry-on baggage to flights when possible.

Who Will Travel?

Highly competitive invitational tournaments place strict limits on the number of debaters who may enter. Jennie has no control over this. A student could work very hard in debate but still not earn a traveling spot because of these restrictions. Still, numerous opportunities exist to compete locally nearly every weekend. As our team works to maintain a strong local presence, debaters are encouraged to take advantage of these Bay-area tournaments. The following guidelines will be followed in selecting students for travel and national circuit spots:

- Students who attend practice sessions, summer camps, work hard, contribute to the team's functioning, and who compete more consistently will be selected over others. Students who make a larger commitment to debate and who contribute to the team both in deed and in attitude deserve to be considered first for travel.
- Competitive record, and NFL points will be used to help determine selection. However, Jennie has the final say in evaluating a student's record and readiness for national competition.

- Seniority will be considered but is not the solely-determining factor. To maintain a consistent national presence, schools must allow younger students experience. If a student is given a spot, she should not take it for granted that she will always get spots. We have a highly talented and deep team in our younger ranks. Consistency and dedication will be rewarded in addition to talent with an eye to the future of the program.
- What a student does this year will influence her standing next year. Younger students who do not travel or receive spots this year will earn future chances based on what they do competitively this season and the character they show. A positive and dedicated attitude with a focus on education will be rewarded.
- Any student who forfeits a round, concedes without permission, or is a “no show” will lose consideration to compete.
- Any student who violates team rules will lose consideration.
- Any student who is disrespectful to Jennie, other coaches, or another adult chaperone will lose consideration, as well as any student who acts unprofessionally at tournaments. Courtesy will not be overlooked for trophies.
- **Gossip about Jennie’s decisions will not be tolerated. Jennie expects the same respect she shows her students. They should talk to her directly and honestly if they have concerns or are upset about a decision.**

NSDA Districts

- Students must be NSDA members.
- Students who have demonstrated a commitment to and skill in local debate will be eligible first.
- Remaining spots will be filled based on a student’s competitive record for the year and his/her dedication.

A Note from Jennie on Traveling

As the coach, Jennie makes the final decisions about who will attend out-of-town tournaments based on what she believes is best for the team both in the current year and in the future. While students are not required to compete in tournaments, serious competitors will participate in both CFL and national tournaments, and will compete at least once a month. This team will reward dedication and attitude, not only winning. When given the opportunity to travel or attend an invitational tournament, a student should take full advantage of it and represent Palo Alto High School with professionalism. If at any point you have concerns or questions, please approach Jennie about these issues.

Concessions & Closeouts

When a team is highly successful, students from the same school may be matched against each other in elimination rounds due to the large number of competitors that school has advanced. If five of eight quarterfinalists are from a single school, for example, then this situation is unavoidable. When students from only one school remain in elimination rounds, having knocked out all other competitors, this is called a “closeout.” When this happens the team should celebrate! This shows the depth of talent on our squad. When a closeout happens, students do not debate their teammates. It is up to the coach to rank them for the official tournament results. This is a difficult decision that hopefully won’t taint how individuals view the victory. The guidelines below have been established to assist in closeout situations. Jennie’s judgment must be trusted. Her goal is to qualify as many students as possible to championships. Individual recognition is easy to focus on in debate, but one of the signs

of a strong squad is that it tries to spread success to as many students on the team as possible. If there are any concerns or questions, please discuss them with Jennie.

A Note on “Seeding”

Judging at tournaments is inconsistent and highly subjective. It is also possible for one debater to be matched against tough varsity opponents, making their preliminary rounds quite challenging, while another debater is matched against less experienced opponents. Due to these factors, “seeding” at tournaments is not always a reliable method for making decisions. It is common for top seeds to be defeated by lower seeds once in elimination rounds, where judging is more reliable and the talent more consistent. Jennie knows each individual tournament situation best. If the situation calls for it, Jennie reserves the right to make what she thinks is the most competitive decision independent of the guidelines below.

Most tournaments do not break brackets. This means that students from the same school may be matched against each other in elimination rounds even when debaters from other teams remain in the competition. For example, if Palo Alto had the first seed and the sixteenth seed in the octofinals of a tournament, these students would be matched against each other even if seeds two through fifteen were from other schools.

Paly Speech and Debate Parent Expectations



The Paly Speech and Debate club cannot exist without parent participation and support and many have asked what they can do to help their child and support the team.

Outlined here are two ways parents of student club members are expected to participate followed by many other essential ways parents can support the club.

Critical and expected ways parents support our team!

1. **Support Your Child:** Speech and Debate can be a time- and energy-consuming activity. One of the best ways to support and understand the dedication and drive being competitively successful in this activity requires is to help your student balance his/her other schoolwork so that s/he may develop the skills necessary to compete at the level s/he desires at tournaments.
2. **Judging local tournaments:** Tournaments require judging ratios of 1:2 or 1:3 competitors so parents of children in tournaments are expected to judge at least twice per year at non-championship* tournaments. Parents may find other English-speaking adults to take their place – that is their obligation, not the obligation of Jennie or the coaches. *No prior debate or speech judging experience is necessary.*

What if I'm scared to judge?

You are in good company. All parents are scared the first time or few times they do it. You don't want to be unfair to the students, you don't know what you're doing, you don't feel qualified. Don't worry!

- 1) Almost every week, there are opportunities for you to learn and practice debate judging by watching our debaters run their practice debates in front of you. It's a great way for you to see more rounds, learn about fascinating topics, and help the team by giving feedback about what you liked and didn't like.
- 2) You are qualified and **exactly** like the rest of the judges at these tournaments! They, too, are all parents of local competitors from the same background that you have. They are judging your child and you are judging theirs – it's all good.
- 3) You're in luck because Paly provides LD debate judge training. **On Oct 29 from 7-9 pm in Room 853**, you will be treated to a demonstration LD debate round and an LD judge training by longtime team parent and judging expert JJ Singh.
- 4) On the National Speech and Debate Association's website speechanddebate.org, there are brief instructional videos you may watch about how to judge rounds.
- 5) At many tournaments, there are written or oral judging instructions before you judge.
- 6) Most parents end up **loving** judging once they do it once or twice. It's a way to spend time around your child at a time in life when s/he is

spending a lot less time with you, you will see some of the smartest students in the area discussing some of the most pressing issues of our time, and if you're judging speech, you'll sit back and be entertained all day long by incredible actors and orators.

- 7) **You can't make a mistake.** Our students face judges just like you, with varying degrees of experience and expertise. Just like your children learning and excelling in their SD event, you won't learn to judge unless you try it.

*If your child is competing in a championship qualifying tournament (state quals, national quals) the ratio is 1:1 and you must judge or find and provide a qualified judge.

Important and Essential ways that you can greatly help our team!

- **Judge Practice Rounds on Tuesday evenings:** In order to prepare for tournaments, we need practice presenting in front of judges who have little or no speech or debate knowledge or experience. Please offer to judge some rounds at practice for us on Tuesdays from 7-9 pm. Sign-up when you get an email from Jennie requesting help.
- **Contribute to the Team Financially:** Because speech and debate is an extra-curricular activity, our team cannot rely on school funding as most other schools do. We are a remarkably competitive team despite the fact that most of our opponents spend time in speech/debate class every day and have practices at least 3 times a week. We are able to hold our own because we have some of the most respected coaches on the circuit – a large but necessary investment. *To take the team beyond the basics, we need parents to contribute financially.*
- **Sign up to bring Family Dinner:** Our beloved team tradition is to take a quick recess at 8 pm to eat hearty snacks together. It's a time for our team to bond across squads and divisions, blow off a little steam, and re-energize for the second hour of practice, and your student looks forward to it every week. Sign up to bring pizza, bagels, Subway, samosas or other favorites for 25 students at least once during the year. Email Jennie for the link.
- **Provide Transportation:** We often need help driving students to and from Bay-area tournaments or the airport on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. If you can help carpool students to these tournaments, or to and from the airport at travel tournament time, your help would be greatly appreciated. There's some paperwork involved, so see Jennie for the details.
- **Join the Dist List:** Many parents choose to be added to our student email list to keep abreast of team news and events. Please let Jennie know if you'd like to be added.
- **Read the State of Speech and Debate:** Celebrate team successes and learn about upcoming events in our monthly newsletter. When you join the Dist List you are automatically subscribed.

About the Paly Speech and Debate Team Coaching Staff

Jennie Savage, Director of Speech and Debate

650-307-2018 Please do not call or text after 10 pm unless it's an emergency

Jenniesavage1@gmail.com

Jennie is entering her 15th year with the Paly team, and her 14th year as director of speech and debate. She has been awarded her second diamond by the National Speech and Debate Association for her coaching dedication and results. She has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Virginia 1988. Prior to retiring from the paid labor force to raise a family, Jennie worked as worldwide sales trainer and executive speech consultant at Adobe Systems, Inc. Her other jobs included: public affairs manager and nationwide CEO speech/crisis media coach at Planned Parenthood Federation of America; senior legislative aide on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC; political advance team member on a presidential campaign; and policy analyst for the Children's Defense Fund and for the Southern Poverty Law Center. In high school, she competed in Policy (CX) debate for the Montgomery Academy, AL, regularly won top speaking awards, participated in numerous out-rounds, and was on the state champion team. Jennie is a published author, a non-profit board member, and is raising two college freshmen (Emory/Georgia Tech and UCSC) and has a daughter who just completed graduate school at MIT.

Candace Wang, Assistant Team Director

Candacewang99@gmail.com

650-350-2649

Candace (Paly '17, Cal '21) started debate at Paly at the beginning of her freshman year. She went on to compete in Lincoln Douglas Debate, Impromptu Speaking, Humorous Interpretation and Original Oratory. Candace was the Novice Champion at SCU Philathletic Invitational, top 10 speaker at the UC Berkeley tournament, octafinalist at the MLK Invitational and quarterfinalist at the UoP Jon Schamber Invitational. She also had success in Impromptu Speaking and Humorous Interpretation as a finalist at several tournaments. During her senior year, she was a semi finalist at the Jon Schamber Invitational and a finalist at both the State and National Championship qualifiers for Original Oratory (6th and 4th place respectively). Candace coached, led, and directed the Paly Speech and Debate Camp for three years and held offices of treasurer, junior captain and Team Captain. She is currently entering her junior year at UC Berkeley, and is a dual major in Greco-Roman History and Infectious Diseases and is headed to medical school.

Coaches

We have seven fine coaches who work with the team in person and via email, instant messaging, and phone: David Jakubowicz, Ujwal Srivastava, Ben Anderson, Danielle Mitalipov, Sarah Youngquist, Emma Abdullah, and Alex Millard. They sometimes travel with the team to provide coaching at tournaments and to fill judging obligations for Paly. We feel very lucky to have them as part of our team. Not only were they all remarkable debaters and speechies themselves in high school, but they are also brilliant, mature, professional, and share our focus on education and character. Students should send them pieces, cases, blocks, and questions. They are also great resources if students need suggestions for reading materials and research.

David Jakubowicz, Head Coach, Congressional Debate

david.izek@gmail.com
[\(954\) 319-2340](tel:9543192340)

David started debate at Nova High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida his freshman year. During high school, David competed in Congressional Debate for all four years. During his junior year he placed 2nd at Emory and 8th at NSDA nationals. During his senior year he won Emory, Glenbrooks, the Sunvitational, and Crestian; placed second at TOCs and NSDA Nationals; and placed third at the Yale Invitational. He's most proud to have been (to this day) the only congressional debater to win the NSDA nationals final round leadership bowl for two consecutive years. During his senior year he also served as captain of the Nova High School Debate team. At the collegiate level David debated for the University of Pennsylvania's parliamentary debate team and was the President of Penn's mock trial program. He graduated from Penn in May from the Jerome Fisher Program in Management and Technology with a BSE in Systems Engineering and a BS from Wharton in entrepreneurship and operations. His full-time works is at Facebook as a Product Specialist and is looking forward to another great year working with the Paly congress team!

Emma Abdullah, Head Coach, Oratorical Events

abdemma@stanford.edu
[909 406 3850](tel:9094063850)

Emma is a senior at Stanford, although her family is scattered a little all over the world. Before moving to California, she lived in Kuwait where she was captain of the national debate team and a gold medalist in public speaking. Emma is an avid writer; she loves short stories and dystopian novels and hopes to bring about change through her writing. Her published book, The Blue Box, has raised thousands of dollars for children in refugee camps. It has been turned into a bilingual musical production which is being performed internationally and has been nominated for awards as well as funded three UNICEF schools to date. A fervent advocate for the rights of refugees, Emma cares particularly about humanitarian causes and is involved with UNICEF at Stanford. As a multicultural child herself, she loves languages and is passionate about understanding different cultures and their interactions. She is very excited to be part of the Paly family and loves to learn from the incredible coaches and students she gets to work alongside.

Alex Millard, Head Coach, Interpretive Events

amillard@stanford.edu
[\(816\) 965-3391](tel:8169653391)

I started doing speech and debate my freshman year of high school in Missouri, doing mainly HI and Duo. I quickly realized I am not as funny as I thought I was and moved into DI and started doing some Public Forum debate. I was lucky enough to qualify to NIETOC, NCFL, and NSDA nationals in Duo, DI, or both Sophomore through Senior year. During that time I also tried my hand at some extemp, Congress, and prose/poetry, but I always came back to interp. I am a huge advocate for the power of communication and believe speech and debate are the best activities to teach those skills. I am extremely excited to be a part of the Paly family!

Ben Anderson, Head Varsity Debate Coach – Lincoln Douglas

Banders9@stanford.edu

[\(573\) 808 4739](tel:(573)8084739).

Ben is a co-term 5th year at Stanford, originally from Liberty, Missouri. In high school, he competed in International Extemporaneous and Lincoln-Douglas debate with the Liberty High speech and debate team. He qualified to nationals three times in IX, finishing in the top 30 his junior year, on top of a third-place finish at State. Ben continues to debate in college with Stanford's Parliamentary Debate team. Majoring in Philosophy, Ben's interests include literature, politics, math, and music. He plays in the Stanford orchestra and is involved in climate activism on campus. Ben is very excited to keep coaching the Palo Alto High School speech and debate family this upcoming year.

Danielle Mitalipov, Assistant Varsity Debate Coach, LD/PF

Mitalipo@stanford.edu

503-313-7880

Danielle started debating in her sophomore year at Aloha High School after she founded the debate club with a friend. In her junior year, she became the Oregon state champion in Parliamentary debate, as well as making finals in Radio Speaking. As a senior, she was also a state semi-finalist in Lincoln Douglas debate and Expository Speaking. At Stanford, Danielle has continued debating with the Stanford Debate Society, making elimination rounds at numerous tournaments. She won the 2018 Berkeley APDA tournament, made it to quarterfinals of USUDCs as well as winning 2nd best novice speaker, and attended the World Championships as a sophomore. She is currently the Tournament Director of the Stanford Debate Society, and is responsible for the Stanford High School Invitational. Danielle studies philosophy and economics at Stanford.

Jaiveer Sandhu, Head Varsity Debate Coach, PF

jaiveersandhu@gmail.com

650-823-7355

Jaiveer, a rising sophomore at Tufts University, followed in the footsteps of his two older brothers and began debating his freshman year at Paly. He primarily competed in Lincoln Douglas Debate while branching out to Public Forum his senior year. Jaiveer was an All-American debater competing in over 110 rounds with a winning percentage close to .750. He won numerous invitationals and wildcards and was the top seed in the State Qualifying Tournament his junior year. He went on to place 8th in the state in Lincoln Douglas. Outside of debate, Jaiveer served as Student Body President at Paly and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 57. He also rowed for Norcal Crew and is currently a varsity athlete on the Tufts Crew Team. Jaiveer will be joining us only for the

fall semester as he takes classes locally at Menlo College. He is very excited to join the team again and looks forward to working with the PF and LD debaters!

Ujwal Srivastava, Assistant Coach, Congressional Debate

ujwalsrivastava@gmail.com

(650) 575 5411

Ujwal (Paly '19,) an incoming freshman at Stanford University, was first introduced to debate at Paly's Speech and Debate Summer Camp in 2013 and immediately fell in love with the activity. He joined the Paly Lincoln-Douglas team as an eighth grader but learned about Congressional Debate as a possible event and worked with the Paly coaching staff to add it to the PASD offerings. His vision transformed Paly's debate program, and he transitioned to the newly formed Congress team. He helped grow the team from three initial members to over 30 while serving as the Congress captain his freshman and sophomore years. Ujwal debated on the Paly team for a total of five years and attended various tournaments ranging from the Martin Luther King Jr. Invitational to the Arizona State University Invitational, but is most proud of his Best Presiding Officer award at National Qualifiers in his sophomore year. Passionate about teaching, reading about current events and helping others find their voice, he hopes to grow the winning and supportive culture of the Congress team as well as help students gain confidence in researching and speaking. He has taught at the PASD summer camp for the past four years and is beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to continue his connection with the Paly Speech and Debate family and teach Congress!

Student/Parent Receipt of Team Handbook



I have read the entire Palo Alto Speech and Debate Team Handbook for 2017-2018 and understand all the rules and regulations for participation in the class, tournaments, and other team events. I agree to abide by all the rules and regulations in the handbook. Furthermore, I understand the importance of representing Palo Alto High School favorably and will do my utmost to enhance the school's and the team's reputation.

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

I have read the entire Palo Alto Speech and Debate Team Handbook for 2017-2018 and understand all the rules and regulations that will govern my child's participation in the class, tournaments, and other team events.

Parent or guardian signature: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

Parent or guardian signature: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

Emails will be used to send parents updates on how the team is doing, travel information, etc. Any other emails that you would like to include on Jennie's mailing list, please record below: