



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HIGH SCHOOL

ENTER TO LEARN, LEAVE TO SERVE

It is my pleasure to invite you to the annual St. Vincent de Paul Speech and Debate Tournament for Junior High Students. I am pleased to announce that we are continuing our debate event in the tournament this year. We will still offer Individual Events (IE's), but this year all IE's will be in the one pattern and debate in the other. That means students can double-enter in debate and one IE, but they can no longer double enter in 2 different IE's.

I am very happy to announce that current SVHS speech and debate students have volunteered to come to your school to make presentations about the different events and help coach your competitors. If you are interested in having a SVHS debater come to your school to make a presentation, e-mail me at twoodhead@svhs-pet.org and we will make every effort to get them there at a time convenient to your program and our students.

The tournament will be held on Saturday March 25th 2017 at St. Vincent de Paul High School at 849 Keokuk Street, Petaluma, CA 94952. Students should arrive with their coaches at SVHS by 8am. The first round will start by 8:30am at the latest (or as soon as we have all the schools checked in). Students should either bring a lunch or some money to purchase snack items at the tournament. The schedule is partially dependant on entry size, but schools should plan on being at SVHS until mid to late afternoon.

The entry deadline is Friday, March 10th 2017. Entries this year will be on www.joyoftournaments.com. The tournament will be listed in the "other" tab but will not appear until the months preceding March. You will need to set up an account with your students' names. This online system will allow us to run the tournament more efficiently as well as allow you to make *name* changes online up until the night before the tournament.

Explanation of Events:

Debate: This is a 2-person event. Students work with a partner to research the topic. In the debate round they should read properly cited evidence to support their claims. Students need to prepare to debate both sides of the topic. There will be 3-4 debate rounds; students will debate one side of the resolution in one round and the opposite side in the next round. The number of rounds will be determined by the size of the entry. This year we will limit the national topic down to one affirmative option to facilitate preparation and good debates.

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase diplomatic and/or economic engagement with the People's Republic of China in the area of space development, specifically on the issue of space debris.

As this topic is part of this year's high school topic, you can find an evidence packet prepared for novices at www.debatecoaches.org in the "curriculum" section. Within this packet is the space coop affirmative, negative arguments against this case, and generic disadvantages to use on the negative side. Please do not use the counterplan, topicality or kritik arguments in the packet for this competition as they will be prohibited. St. Vincent debate students can come help your students to research evidence as well as help go through the evidence in the packet.

The Format:

Each student will speak twice during the debate round, according to the following order:

- 1st affirmative speaker (4 minutes)
 - cross-examination (1.5 minutes)
- 1st negative speaker (4 minutes)
 - cross-examination (1.5 minutes)
- 2nd affirmative speaker (4 minutes)
 - cross-examination (1.5 minutes)
- 2nd negative speaker (4 minutes)
 - cross-examination (1.5 minutes)
- 1st negative speaker – rebuttal (2 minutes)
- 1st affirmative speaker – rebuttal (2 minutes)
- 2nd negative speaker – rebuttal (2 minutes)
- 2nd affirmative speaker – rebuttal (2 minutes)

The first speeches are designed to introduce arguments while the rebuttals are designed to answer the opponents' arguments as well as reiterate their own arguments. New arguments should not be made in rebuttal speeches. Cross-examination time is to be used for clarification not for fighting with the other team. At all times in the debate, all competitors should be polite to their partner and the other team. Teams will be awarded for a winning record and individuals will be awarded based on speaker points (determined by the judges based on: courtesy, reasoning, evidence and overall speaking skills).

Expository Speaking: In this event students write an original speech designed to inform and educate on a topic the student is both interested in and about which he/she is knowledgeable. The speech should be 6-8 minutes in length and may employ visual aids (like posters, props, etc.) Novices may use note cards, although memorization is preferable.

Original Oratory/Advocacy: In this event students write an original speech, 6-8 minutes, intended to persuade. Students should pick a topic they are interested in and write a speech that makes a well-reasoned argument in favor or against a particular topic. Novices may use note cards, although memorization is preferable.

Dramatic Interpretation: In this event students interpret a 6-8 minute section of a play that is dramatic in nature. Students act out all characters in that section of the play, but should not move extensively around the classroom. No costumes or props are allowed. Novices may use note cards, although memorization is preferable.

Humorous Interpretation: In this event students interpret a 6-8 minute section of a play that is humorous in nature. (This is not a forum for stand-up comedy or slapstick comedy). Students act out all characters in that section of the play, but should not move extensively around the classroom. No costumes or props are allowed. Novices may use note cards, although memorization is preferable.

Thank you for your continued support of and participation in this event. I look forward to seeing you all in March!

Tom Woodhead, Director of Debate at SVHS

510-710-8119 cell (please use this number for emergencies at the tournament only)

twoodhead@svhs-pet.org **** preferred method of communication****