

Fossil Ridge High School



Forensics Team Handbook 2017-2018

Intro to Forensics

What is Forensics? Forensics (Speech and Debate) is an academic, co-curricular activity where students compete in various types and styles of public speaking and communication. These styles include debate and argumentation, interpretation of literature and poetry, extemporaneous presentations on current social issues, and public address and oratory. In forensics, students will hone research, writing, argumentation, interpretation, and presentation skills. Forensics will make you more informed; it will make you a better thinker; it will make you a better speaker; and it will make you more confident. To get there, you will work like crazy, build positive relationships with your teammates and coaches, and engage in one of the **most rigorous academic activities in the nation**.

It's important that you realize immediately that Forensics is a co-curricular activity. That means that it includes requirements outside of normal class time. The local competitive season runs from the beginning of October to the end of March, with National Tournaments extending from May and into June.

Speech Events

Speech involves a presentation by one, two, or sometimes a group of students that is judged against a similar type of presentation by others in a round of competition. Speech events range from limited preparation events that require extensive knowledge of current events to dramatic and humorous interpretation, which challenge students to find powerful moments in literature and recreate them for an audience.

Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation (DI and HI): Using a play, short story, or other published work, students perform a selection of one or more portions of a piece up to ten minutes in length. With a spotlight on character development and depth, Dramatic/Humorous Interpretation focuses on a student's ability to convey emotions through the use of a dramatic or humorous text. Competitors may portray one or multiple characters. No props or costumes may be used. Performances also include an introduction written by the student to contextualize the performance and state the title and author.

Program of Oral Interpretation (POI): Using a combination of Prose, Poetry and Drama, students construct a program up to ten minutes in length using at least two out of the three genres. With a spotlight on argumentation and performative range, Program Oral Interpretation focuses on a student's ability to combine multiple genres of literature centered around a single theme. Competitors are expected to portray multiple characters. No props or costumes may be used except for the manuscript. Performances also include an introduction written by the student to contextualize the performance and state the titles and authors used in the program.

Duo Interpretation (Duo): Two competitors team up to deliver a ten-minute performance of a published play or story. Using off-stage focus, Duo Interpretation competitors convey emotion and environment through a variety of performance techniques focusing on the relationships and interactions between the characters. No props or costumes are used. Performances also include an introduction written by the students to contextualize the performance and state the title and author.

Extemporaneous Speaking (Extemp): In Extemporaneous Speaking, students are presented with a choice of three questions related to current events and, in 30 minutes, prepare a seven-minute speech answering the selected question. Students may consult articles and evidence they gather prior to the contest, but may not use the Internet during preparation. Topics range from country-specific issues to regional concerns to foreign policy. The speech is delivered from memory. There are typically two divisions of Extemp: International Extemp and Domestic (US) Extemp.

Original Oratory (OO): Closely associated with traditional rhetorical speaking, students deliver a self-written, ten-minute speech on a topic of their choosing. Limited in their ability to quote words directly, Original Oratory competitors craft an argument using evidence, logic, and emotional appeals. Topics range widely, and may be informative or persuasive in nature. The speech is delivered from memory.

Informative Speaking (Info): Students deliver a self-written, ten-minute speech on a topic of their choosing. Limited in their ability to quote words directly, Informative Speaking competitors craft a speech using evidence, logic, and optional visual aids. All topics must be informative in nature; the goal is to educate, not to advocate. The speech is delivered from memory.

Poetry Interpretation: Using a selection or selections of literature, students provide an interpretation of Poetry with a time limit of 10 minutes, including introduction. Poetry is characterized by writing that conveys ideas, experiences, and emotions through language and expression. Students may choose traditional poetry, often characterized by rhyme or rhythm, or nontraditional poetry, which often has a rhythmic flow but is not necessarily structured by formal meter (meter is a beat, pattern, or structure, such as iambic pentameter). Students may not use prose, nor drama (plays), in this category. **Students must use a manuscript in Poetry**, which typically consists of a small three-ring binder with page protectors. Reading from a book or magazine is prohibited.

Debate Events

Debate involves an individual or a team of debaters working to effectively convince a judge that his or her side of a resolution (or debate topic) is, as a general principle, more valid. Students in debate come to thoroughly understand both sides of the resolution, having researched each extensively, and learn to think critically about every argument that could be made on each side.

Public Forum (PF): A team of two competes against another team of two. The teams have prepared speeches for both sides (PRO and CON), and also give rebuttals to opponent speeches and compete in crossfire questioning. Public Forum gets a new topic every month, and is designed to be accessible to any intelligent person.

Sample Resolutions:

- Resolved: NATO should strengthen ties with Ukraine to deter further Russian aggression.
- Resolved: The benefits of domestic NSA surveillance outweigh the harms.

Lincoln-Douglas (LD): An individual competes against another individual. Lincoln-Douglas is argued in a more philosophical way based on political values (justice, morality, equality, etc...) and is typically judged by trained judges. Both individuals have prepared speeches (affirmative and negative) and give rebuttals. It is crucial that all points are carried through the round and not “dropped” in order to win a value debate. Lincoln-Douglas gets a new topic every other month.

Sample Resolutions:

- Resolved: Placing political conditions on humanitarian aid to foreign countries is unjust.
- Resolved: Individuals have a moral obligation to assist people in need.

Congressional Debate (Congress): A group of roughly twenty students act as legislators and give speeches debating bills and resolutions before voting on whether or not to pass them. Legislative dockets are released prior to competitive tournaments.

Team Policies and Procedures

Team Meeting and Tournament Sign-up

A weekly team meeting will take place on MONDAYS at 3:00pm Room W110. All team members are expected to show up, as we will cover announcements, regulations, news, celebrations, concerns, and other team business. Practice will follow the team meeting. Tournament sign-ups will need to be completed **two weeks prior to the tournament**. On the Tuesday before a tournament, I will ask the class/team if there are any drops. By the end of the Tuesday, **you will have to repay the school for your registration**. The only exceptions are illness or a family emergency.

Tournament Preparation Guidelines

Competitive tournaments are held throughout the year for both Speech and Debate events. Tournaments held in October are exclusively for novice competitors (students in their first year of competition). Varsity members may judge at these tournaments. Varsity tournaments are held from November through March. See schedule at the end of this document.

In order to travel to a tournament, students must: 1) meet the practice requirement listed below, 2) confirm availability/commitment to attend a tournament two weeks prior to the tournament, 3) have a “tournament ready” event, 4) be in academic good standing with the school and in good standing with the team, and 5) be fully paid with activity fees.

A “Tournament Ready” Event is a full and revised copy of a speech, debate case(s), and extemp files. Students WILL NOT be considered “tournament ready” with an outline, non-memorized speech, or insufficient extemp files.

Practice Requirements

Students must sign up in advance for practice. Practice times will be available from 3:00pm-5:30pm on Mondays and Thursdays. **Practice is REQUIRED before I will allow you to travel to a tournament and must take place the week prior.** If you are not “tournament ready,” you will be dropped from the tournament and subject to covering the drop fee.

You MUST be on time for practice or you will lose your spot. All students have a minimum practice requirement, and all students are encouraged to attend extra practices, even if only to observe—it *will* help you. **From October through March**, team members are required to participate in ONE COACHED practice session per week. This means in front of or working with a coach. As head coach, I reserve the right to adjust this requirement based off team needs.

(Continued on the next page)

Forensics Team Member Behavior

***These behavioral standards apply to ALL tournaments (even those in town) and any team function (practice, showcases, public outings, tournaments we host, etc...).

1. I understand that ALL school policies are in effect at all times. If I get into trouble at a tournament, I will face consequences when I return to school.
2. **I WILL NOT trash talk opponents or judges at the tournament.** I understand that this hurts our team.
3. I will spit out my gum and turn off my phone before going into rounds.
4. I will show up to rounds in which I am entered. If I do not, I know that I will be responsible for covering my entry fee for that tournament, and I will be unable to travel to the next tournament.
5. I will stay on the bus, at the school, or in the restaurant—wherever our team is at that point in the day. If I disappear, even temporarily, consequences will result.
6. I will always travel to and from tournament activities with the team unless alternative arrangements have been pre-approved by coaches. This includes individual travel and travel with family or friends.
7. I will arrive at the pick-up/loading site (either Fossil Ridge Staff lot or the Harmony Transit Center) BEFORE the assigned departure time. I understand the bus WILL leave me if I am late. I understand that I will have to find my own transportation to that tournament.
8. I understand that if I sign up for a tournament and decide not to compete with less than six days notice, I am responsible for repaying the school for my registration fee.
9. I will let my coaches know ASAP if I am unable to attend a tournament.
10. I will stay professionally dressed up through awards. NO CHANGING CLOTHES; NO PAJAMAS.
11. I will follow coach instructions during ALL tournaments—both day and overnight tournaments. I understand that if I do not follow instructions concerning curfew and other directions, I will be suspended for at least 2 tournaments.
12. I understand that my parents/guardians will be contacted to arrange for my immediate transportation home in case of serious misconduct during the tournament.
13. I will never bring a person into the hotel room that is not part of the travel group from FRHS/PSD.
14. I will respect all members of the travelling group. This means that I will not discriminate based on race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.
15. I will not harass other students, faculty members, staff members, coaches, other students, or any other person while travelling or representing FRHS as part of the Speech & Debate team.
16. I will be respectful of all other's personal space.
17. I will not whine, moan, or make non-unique complaints. I will not be aggressive, hostile, or defensive. I will behave in a professional manner in all public spaces when representing the team and FRHS.

Violation of the behavioral standards may result in some form of consequence including, but not limited to, sanction, probation, travel restriction, written and/or verbal warning, dismissal from the Speech & Debate team, and school suspension.

Dress Code

During tournaments you need to wear appropriate business attire. Men should wear nice slacks, collared shirts and a tie. Most men will wear suits with jackets, and I recommend that you do so. Women may wear knee length (or longer) dresses or skirts, dress blouse and nice slacks, or suits. Covered toe footwear is required. **No denim, sneakers, flip-flops, sweatshirts, t-shirts, hoods, open-toed shoes, or mini-skirts.** Cover your midriff. Tournament competitors typically wear suits, both men and women. The clothes you would wear to formal gatherings (prom, church, homecoming) are not typically NOT appropriate; **tournaments require business attire.**

Your hair should be out of your face, and you should be well-groomed. When we look and feel professional, we will compete in a similar manner. If you need assistance in obtaining business attire, come talk to me.

Lettering

Varsity Lettering

In order to letter, you need to:

- Compete in a minimum 4 **Varsity** Tournaments
- Attain at least 75 **Varsity** NFL Points
- Volunteer 5 Hours for our team; this can be accomplished at a tournament we or the district may host.
- Participate and attend a minimum two practices a week during season. I will let you know when this is in effect.

Awards

Throughout the year, you will undoubtedly be receiving medals, trophies, and certificates. For purposes of increasing Forensics exposure to the school, trophies will become property of the school to showcase in our trophy case. Mr. Campbell will return trophies to you at the end of your Forensics career. **THE TROPHIES WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU.** However, we need to show our school how successful you have been. If you receive an additional award (i.e. a medal) for any conference, district, state, or national competition, the trophy will remain property of the school.

State Quals, Nat Quals, and other selective tournaments

I will allocate spots at selective tournaments based on the nature of the selective tournament and student participation and behavior. Some tournaments are more geared toward Speech and others toward Debate. I reserve the right to refuse invitations to team members who have violated team or school standards of behavior. I will not bring students to important tournaments that have given me reason to believe they cannot be trusted to act responsibly.

In the event that students qualify for state or national tournaments—or choose to attend any other large travel tournament—students will be required to cover some of the cost of participation. While most of the funding for these tournaments can be attained through fundraising, there will undoubtedly still be more costs associated with competition. Students will also be required to cover the cost of coach(es) as a result of participating in these tournaments. Every effort will be made to find the most efficient and effective way to balance cost and the opportunity for students to participate in Forensics on a large national scale. If students cannot cover the costs associated with attendance (including, but not limited to, registration, travel, and lodging for competitors and coaches/judges), the students will not be able to attend.

Tentative Tournament Schedule

Departure and arrival times are TBA. You will receive a trip sheet before each tournament with a detailed schedule.

Tournaments in **BOLD are selective, which means invite or qualification only.

**As coach, I reserve the right to alter or amend this schedule based on my availability.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tournament</u>
October 7 th	Longmont (Novice)
October 13 th (Friday)	Res Christian (Novice)
October 28 th	Monarch (Novice)
November 4 th	Thompson Valley
November 11th	FOSSIL RIDGE – All Students Help
November 18 th	Greeley Central
December 2 nd	Northridge
December 9 th	Fort Collins High
December 15-16th	Cheyenne East
January 13 th	Niwot
January 27 th	Rocky Mountain High
February 10th	CHSAA Quals @Northridge
February 24th	NSDA Speech Quals (TBA)
March 2-3rd	NSDA Debate Quals (TBA)
March 16-17th	CHSAA State (TBA)
March 24th	NSDA Congress Quals (TBA)

FORENSICS: MR. CAMPBELL

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN– **DUE August 28th**

Student Name_____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Student Email _____

Student cell_____

Mother or guardian _____ Email _____

Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

Home phone (if different) _____

Father or guardian _____ Email _____

Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

Home phone (if different) _____

Does the student have any special needs, health-related or otherwise, that I should be aware of? (If there is anything else that you want to communicate with me, you can write it here as well.)

For students: I have read the team rules, procedures, and expectations, and I agree to abide by them.

Student Signature
Date

For parents: My child has shown me the team handbook. I agree that my child will follow the Fossil Ridge Forensics policies and procedure outlined in this handbook.

Parent Signature

Date