

HOW TOURNAMENTS RUN

1. A few weeks in advance, you can sign up for a tournament on the board in the debate room or through one of the coaches. You have to pick an event, or two if you want to double enter (competing in two events). Once you sign up, you're committed - money from our budget is deducted for every student entered. Tournaments typically start either on Friday at 3pm or Saturday at 8am. However, plan to be there at least an hour before start time. The ending time is never set because rounds can last longer than expected, complications can happen with the ballots, or the awards ceremony can be set back. It's pretty rare for any tournament to go later than 10:30.
2. At most tournaments, we'll have a bus. If we don't, one of the coaches will tell us, and your parent can drive you or students will meet in the debate room to carpool.
3. Once we arrive at the school location, we find a "homebase". This is usually just a corner of the lunchroom or a table. We'll stack all of our bags there and hang out there in between rounds. Those competing in extemp will take their bags and computers to the extemp room - which is usually the library, a large classroom, or the auditorium.
4. After we're settled in, we wait for postings. Postings show you where and when you're competing for each round. They'll usually go up where everyone can see, like the lunchroom wall. When they go up, you'll see a bunch of kids rush towards a wall and someone will yell "Postings!".
5. This is the official beginning of the tournament. Everyone breaks off into their own individual rounds for their event, compete, and then go back to homebase. There's usually three rounds at a tournament, and possibly 1-2 break rounds depending on the tournament.
6. Once all the rounds have finished, we wait for awards to begin. Most kids spend this time eating, putting on their pajamas or more comfortable clothes, and regaining all the energy they've lost. We also have to clean up our area, pick up our trash, and make sure we have all of our stuff. We're guests at the school, so we have to make sure to be respectful.
7. Awards will usually be held in the auditorium or lunchroom of the school. Most tournaments will go through the top three for each event, who will then go to the front to receive an award.
8. Once this is all finished, we load up on our bus and head back to Clearfield. After most tournaments, the team goes to eat (usually IHOP).
9. Go home, watch Netflix, congratulate yourself on making it through a tournament, get some sleep, and prepare to do it all again next time!