

Connecticut Debate Association

Novice Scrimmage

AITE, September 28, 2024

On behalf of AITE and Coach Claude Morest, you are invited to the CDA's 15th annual Novice Scrimmage in Stamford on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

The day will start with a demonstration debate by two experienced Varsity teams followed by a question-and-answer session. Novice debaters will then have time to review their cases while interested Varsity debaters attend a workshop on judging debate. After this, there will be two rounds of practice debate for the Novices, once on each side of the motion, judged by Varsity debaters.

All debaters and coaches should be familiar with the [CDA Parli Style Guide](#), as well as other material available on the [CDA website](#).

The Motion

The motion for debate will be:

This House would require standardized tests for college admissions.

The motion packet is available for download or copying in three formats:

- [Microsoft Word file](#).
- [PDF file](#)
- [Google Doc file](#)

Novice debaters are expected to have read the packet and prepared their cases before the tournament. Coaches and Varsity debaters are welcome to work with Novices during the two weeks before the event. ***We do ask all parties to refrain from doing additional research beyond use of the packet, a dictionary, an almanac, and a copy of the US Constitution.***

The Schedule

The school will be open shortly after 8AM. Everyone should arrive in time to get settled for a 9AM start. A detailed schedule is at the end of this note. We expect to finish by 3:30PM, about two hours earlier than our regular tournaments.

Registration

Registration opens Monday, September 15, at 8AM. Registrations is done through tabroom.com (www.tabroom.com) as with our regular tournaments. If you are unfamiliar with Tabroom, email us for instructions.

We have set up two events:

- **Novice** for novices who will debate. These should be two-person teams. See eligibility requirements below.
- **Observer** for students who will simply observe the demonstration round. You must register observers so we have a good count of attendees.

- *Varsity debaters who will judge should be entered in the system as **Judges**.* Judges need Tabroom id's to use electronic ballots.

Novice Eligibility: The Novice division is primarily for students starting debate in the CDA this year, though Sophomores who will be Novices may also debate. Juniors may only debate if they have never debated before. Seniors, even if they are new to debate, are not eligible to debate in the Novice Scrimmage, though they may attend as observers.

Observers: Students wishing to observe but not debate should be registered. They will be able to view the demonstration debate, participate in the case preparation with their teammates, and observe the practice rounds.

Judges: Schools must bring one judge for every four debaters, plus one extra. ***For this scrimmage, experienced Varsity debaters may serve as judges!*** Student-judges should those be planning to debate at the Varsity level for the upcoming season, Juniors and Seniors preferred. Since we expect all judges will be students, the Judges Workshop will be oriented toward teaching the Varsity debaters about judging. ***Judges will need a laptop or tablet to use electronic ballots to enter results.***

Schools new to CDA without Varsity debaters are not required to bring judges. We should be able to cover you with Varsity debaters from other schools.

Supervision

Each school must be accompanied by a coach, advisor, or approved chaperone per CDA and CAS rules. This person must have emergency contact information for their students. Students cannot attend CDA events by themselves.

Novice Scrimmage Schedule

8:15-9 AM	Check-in
9-11AM	Demonstration round followed by Q & A
11-11:30AM	Debater case prep, judge workshop
11:30AM-1PM	Debate round 1
1-1:30PM	Lunch and discussion
1:30-3PM	Debate round 2
3-3:30PM	Questions, results and closing remarks.