



Solon Speech and Debate

2019-2020 Team Tryout Information

Tryout Requirements:

- Any student who has never competed in high school Speech and Debate
- Any student who has competed but did not qualify to states or qualified to states but wants to switch events

Tryout Logistics:

1. Select a category group from the list below
2. Sign up for a tryout time using the following link:
 - a. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zxNee24JkRS5Xrz5UU166_GADg7700Uw6YHttwXRYnY/edit?usp=sharing
3. Prepare a 3-5 minute showcase for the coaches to show your potential in your desired event. Make sure that your preparation focuses on the outlined information below.
4. **Be prepared, show up on time, dress up, present with confidence**, and then be prepared to answer questions about yourself, your schedule, and your interests so we can best make our decisions.
5. **Helpful Tip:** The most successful tryouts come from students who have done their research and watched videos of the event they're trying out for. It's very clear to us who has practiced and put in the effort and who has not.

Event Groups:

DUO/Humor/Drama/POI: Please prepare 3-5 minutes of a play, book, poem, or other published source that you feel best portrays your strength in **character interpretation** (this material does not need to be memorized). You may prepare a selection with multiple characters and voices or it may be a one character. You also have the option to read the material for 3 minutes and then showcase your ability to portray various characters outside the material (voices). Please remember that these are the acting events, so the **goal of your audition should be to bring a scene and its characters to life**.

Original Oratory/Informative/Declamation: If you would like to try out for original or informative, you need to prepare a 3-5 minute sample of your **speech writing capabilities** on a topic of your choice. For Declamation, you can bring in a speech that has already been published that you feel you can bring to life /**recreate the message** as if you were the original author of the speech. For both categories you will also be evaluated on your mechanics of speech: **gestures, vocal variety, and enunciation**. You do not need to be memorized for this tryout but it always looks good!

United States Extemp/International Extemp: We would like you to prepare a 5 minute speech on one of the topics listed below. You will not be evaluated on your opinions, but rather on **how well you answer the question and explain your thinking with support/evidence**. You will also be evaluated on the mechanics of speech: **gestures, vocal variety, and enunciation**.

1. Answer the question: Would it be in the best long-term interest of the Republican Party to support the abolition of the Electoral College?
2. Answer the question: Should Israel hold direct talks with Iran?

Lincoln-Douglas Debate/Public Forum Debate/Policy Debate/Congress: Please prepare a 5 minute speech either for or against the following topic. Please note that you will not be judged on your stance but rather **how well you develop your speech, construct your argument, and provide support/evidence for your stance**. Your speech should be clear, easy to follow, and well supported with both logic and evidence. Both writing and speaking skills are important in debate.

Resolved: The European Union should join the Belt and Road Initiative.