

Thursday, October 2nd

10:00-11:50	TSCA Executive Officers Meeting	The Core
12:00-12:50	TFA Executive Council Meeting	Starlight I
12:00-4:00	Convention Registration	Starlight III
1:00-1:50	TFA Committee Meetings	
	Congressional Debate, Constitution, Ad Hoc State Size, Finance, Equity	Starlight I
	Nominating, Professional Relations, Public Relations, Scholarship, Ad Hoc New Coaches	Starlight II
	Ad Hoc Regional Align	The Incubator
	Ad Hoc UDL	The Spark
	Ad Hoc IQT Judging	The Catalyst
	Hall of Fame	The Generator
2:00-2:50	TFA EC & Amendment Discussion	Starlight I
3:00-3:50	TFA Regional Meetings	
	Region 1	The Catalyst
	Region 2	The Workshop
	Region 3	The Incubator
	Region 4	The Spark
	Region 5	The Generator
4:00-4:50	New Member Orientation	The Percolator
4:00-4:50	TSCA Standing Committees	
	Bylaws, College and University, Educator Training, Governmental Affairs, Public Relations, Resolutions, Speech and Theatre in Public Schools, UIL Advisory	Starlight II
	Com to Nom the Nom Com	The Spark
	Educator of the Year	The Incubator
	Fiscal Review	The Workshop
	Nominating	The Generator
	Special Awards	The Catalyst
5:00-5:50	TSCA Executive Council Meeting	Starlight II
	All Officers, District Chairs, Committee Chairs, and Interest Group Chairs are encouraged to attend!	
6:00	TFA Business Meeting #1	Starlight I

Friday, October 3rd

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

8:00-8:30	Late Registration	Starlight III
8:30-9:50	TSCA First General Session (Officer Elections)	Starlight I
10:00-10:50	Panel A Programs	
11:00-11:50	TSCA District Meetings	
	Districts 1-5	Starlight II
	District 6-8	The Incubator
	Districts 9-11	The Percolator
	Districts 12-14	The Spark
	District 15-20	The Workshop
12:00-1:20	Convention Luncheon	Starlight I
1:30-2:50	Interest Group Session 1	
	ID - Middle Schools	The Spark
	ID - High Schools	The Catalyst
	ID - Colleges & Universities	The Generator
3:00-3:50	Panel B Programs	
4:00-4:50	Panel C Programs	
5:00-6:20	Interest Group Session 2	
	Diversity and Inclusion	The Incubator
	Oral Interp & Performance Studies	The Spark
	TIFA/TCCFA	The Workshop
	TJSDA State Planning Meeting 1	The Generator
	UIL	The Catalyst
6:30-7:30	President's Reception	The Patio
7:30-10:00	GUSSC Social Event	The Patio -> Frogg Coffee & Crêperie
7:30-10:00	Past Presidents' Dinner	The Lab
7:30	TFA Business Meeting #2	Starlight I

Saturday, October 4th

7:30-8:00	Late Registration	Starlight III
8:00 - 8:50	TSCA New Executive Council Meeting All Officers, District Chairs, Committee Chairs, and Interest Group Chairs are encouraged to attend!	Starlight I
9:00-9:50	Panel D Programs	
10:00 - 11:20	Interest Group Session 3 Argumentation & Debate Int & Org Comm Rhetoric and Communication Theory Theater TSJDA State Planning Meeting 2	The Workshop The Incubator The Generator The Spark The Catalyst
11:30 - 12:30	TSCA 2nd General Session (Voting and Officer Installation)	Starlight I
12:40-1:20	TFA/TSCA Spotlight Speaker	Starlight I
1:30 - 2:20	Panel E Programs	
2:30 - 3:30	TSCA Officer Planning Meeting	The Core

A01 Teaching Taylor Swift: Using Popular Culture to Teach Communication Studies

Room: The Incubator

Sponsor: Instructional Development in Colleges & Universities

Coordinator: E. Michele Ramsey, Penn State Berks

Chair: E. Michele Ramsey, Penn State Berks

Taylor Swift is a global entertainment phenomenon like we've never seen before. This panel will discuss each panelist's experience with teaching and researching Taylor Swift. Popular culture is important to teach for a number of reasons, but the most important reasons are its ability to engage students in course content using something they are interested in and the fact that ideology is most powerful when its least visible and popular culture is chock full of ideologies. This panel wants to engage people in a discussion of how we used Taylor Swift in our classrooms and our experiences in doing so. We want to then open up discussion to others who may be interested in teaching Taylor at some point so that we can all inform and challenge each other as we prepare for another round of teaching the class, continue our research into Swift and/or start thinking about what we might do to teach Taylor. Given just one professor on this panel had her college mentioned 45 million times in the media because of the class, we think it will be a well-attended panel discussion that is also fun and engaging.

Presenters: E. Michele Ramsey, Penn State Berks
Emily Maly, University of North Texas
Ryan Galloway, Samford University

A02 Roundtable with the EC

Room: Starlight I

Sponsor: Texas Forensic Association

Coordinator: Jenn Melin, Team Texas

Chair: Nathaniel Council, Pampa High School



Jokingly referred to as 'yell at the EC,' this panel is intended to provide members with space to bring up any questions, comments, or concerns with the state of speech and debate in Texas or any other TFA initiatives. The hope is that this panel provides an opportunity for the state to come together outside of tournaments and the business meeting to discuss issues relevant to our profession.

Presenters: Texas Forensic Association Executive Council

A03 Expedition Interp: Brainstorm New Prose & Poetry Category Ideas

Room: The Workshop

Sponsor: University Interscholastic League

Coordinator: Barb Ixba, Westlake High School

Chair: Jana Riggins, University Interscholastic League



This will be the last year for our current UIL Prose & Poetry categories. If you would like to pitch an idea or two for the next set of categories, join this lively and creative discussion group.

Presenters: Jana Riggins, University Interscholastic League
M'Liss Hindman, Tyler Junior College

A04 Student Research Spotlight 1

Room: The Percolator
Sponsor: Graduate and Undergraduate Student Scholarship Conference
Coordinator: Amanda Jo Ratcliff, Tyler Junior College
Chair: Mary Anna Kidd, McMurray University

This student research panel will highlight undergraduate research from graduate and undergraduate students across the state. Student research papers address various issues within the communication field. Participation in this conference will give participating students an outlet for their scholarship. The top student paper will receive the Top Student Paper Award from the GUSS-C and TSCA.

Presenters: **Andrea Hernandez, Abilene Christian University**
 Text Anatomy of a Failed Ideograph “Hugs Not Bullets”
Favour Adeola, Oklahoma State University
 Effects of Generative Artificial Intelligence of Creative Processes Within Local Advertising Agencies
Larissa Gonzales, University of Texas Rio Grand Valley
 Collective Emotions and Experiences: A Reworking of Traditional Bildungsroman Framework Using Affect Studies and The Book of Unknown Americans

A05 Debate Workshop: Teaching Debate in the Middle School Classroom

Room: The Catalyst
Sponsor: Instructional Development in Middle Schools
Coordinator: Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School
Chair: Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School

Ask any sixth grader if they had art or music in elementary and you'll see nearly every hand go up. But ask if they had debate in elementary and you'll have maybe one or two who did UIL. We will lead a discussion on best practices for the beginner student all the way to the MS State Champion.

Presenters: **Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School**
Lindsey Petropoulos, Rice Middle School

A06 Trimming the Tale: Cutting Literature for Interp Success

Room: The Spark
Sponsor: University Interscholastic League
Coordinator: Barb Ixba, Westlake High School
Chair: Barb Ixba, Westlake High School

Cutting a performance piece can be daunting for even the most experienced of Interpers. This panel will share how to break this process down into manageable tasks for students.

Presenters: **Barb Ixba, Westlake High School**
Skylar Walker, Caddo Mills High School



A07 Creative Resistance: Literary Discovery Under Anti DEI Pressures

Room: The Generator

Sponsor: Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association

Coordinator: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College

Chair: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College



In response to the shifting political landscape at both state and national levels, this panel addresses the increasing efforts to censor or delegitimize literature and scholarship associated with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. Such developments pose particular challenges for educators engaged in creative and research-driven disciplines like competitive speech, where access to a wide range of texts is critical for both intellectual inquiry and performance development. This discussion will explore how educators can navigate these restrictions while maintaining academic integrity and fostering inclusive, critical learning environments. Panelists will consider strategies for ensuring student access to marginalized voices and for sustaining pedagogical spaces that prioritize growth, representation, and resistance through performance.

Presenters: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College

Casey Garcia, Lone Star College-North Harris

Wade Hescht, Lone Star College-North Harris

DISTRICT MEETINGS Friday, 11:00-11:50 AM

Please meet with your District to make connections with those in your area, brainstorm convention ideas, start the nomination process for Educator of the Year, and more! Your district number correlates with your Education Service Center number (see page 11). Please note that several districts meet simultaneously in the same spaces.

Odd numbered districts elect a new chair this year.

1-5 Starlight II

6-8 The Incubator

9-11 The Percolator

12-14 The Spark

15-20 The Workshop

FRIDAY—PANEL A PROGRAMS
9:30-10:20AM

INTEREST GROUP SESSION ONE

Friday, 1:30-2:50

Interest Groups ensure that the professional development needs of the body are being met. The Texas Speech Communication Annual Convention provides a way for speech educators to connect and learn. Planning for 2025 convention will begin in these interest group meetings. Chairs and Vice-Chairs are encouraged to generate panel ideas and get soft commitments from individuals willing to present on these panels. They will then take that information and create panel proposals to send to the Vice President. Planning can and should continue throughout the Spring semester to ensure the best possible panel offerings. These are the foundational way that the organization can provide meaningful professional development for both the academic classroom, competition teams, and individual speech educators. Time has been added to these sessions to facilitate brainstorming, coordination between Interest Groups, and submitting reports.

Instructional Development—Middle School

The Spark

Instructional Development—High School

The Catalyst

Instructional Development—College and University

The Generator

FRIDAY—INTEREST GROUP SESSION
1:30-2:50PM

B01 Student Research Spotlight 2

Room: The Percolator
Sponsor: Graduate and Undergraduate Student Scholarship Conference
Coordinator: Amanda Jo Ratcliff, Tyler Junior College
Chair: Tracey Holley, Tarleton State University

This student research panel will highlight undergraduate research from graduate and undergraduate students across the state. Student research papers address various issues within the communication field. Participation in this conference will give participating students an outlet for their scholarship. The top student paper will receive the Top Student Paper Award from the GUSS-C and TSCA.

Presenters: **Nathan Hellman, Iowa State University**
 Shake, Rattle, and Debate: The Rhetoric of Handshakes in Presidential Politics
Krystal Cantu-Cuate, University of the Incarnate Word
 “We’re the Superhumans”: How the Media Prioritizes Disabilities over Athleticism – 2016 Rio Paralympic Games
Noah Tew, University of Texas at Tyler
 From Acclaims to Attacks: Rhetorical Shifts in U.S. Presidential Debates, 2012 vs. 2024

B02 Teaching Communication Theory: Challenges and Successes

Room: The Catalyst
Sponsor: Rhetoric and Communication Theory
Coordinator: Carolyn Baum, West Texas A&M
Chair: Carolyn Baum, West Texas A&M

A panel discussion of teaching communication theory at varying levels including dual credit, community college, undergraduate, and graduate courses. The panel will examine challenges, successes, and how teaching theory can be presented in different timelines and modalities.

Presenters: **Tanya Frolick Carter, Victoria College**
Kate Mead, East Texas Baptist University
Dorothy Andreas, Abilene Christian University

B03 Congressional Kaleidoscope

Room: Starlight I
Sponsor: University Interscholastic League
Coordinator: Barb Ixba, Westlake High School
Chair: Gina Lozano, Hays High School



The College Board launched the AP Capstone program in 2014 to help students more thoroughly prepare for the rigors of college-level research. The first class in the Capstone program, AP Seminar, teaches students how to observe and analyze various issues through a variety of different perspectives. In this session, participants will explore how to apply this model of different perspectives to help students engage in more rigorous and unique argumentation in Congressional Debate.

Presenters: **Ryan Lovell, Tascosa High School**
Gina Lozano, Hays High School

B04 Addressing the Mental and Emotional Sides of Students: Steps Coaches Can Take to Teach the Whole Student

Room: The Workshop
Sponsor: Texas Forensic Association
Coordinator: Jenn Melin, Team Texas
Chair: Joe Uhler, Flower Mound High School



Coaches focus so much on competitive skills but often ignore the mental and emotional parts of competition. This session will help high school coaches assist their students in strengthening their mental and emotional attributes.

Presenters: Joe Uhler, Flower Mound High School

B05 National Board Service

Room: The Incubator
Sponsor: Texas Forensic Association
Coordinator: Jenn Melin, Team Texas
Chair: Dave Huston, Plano West High School



This panel will discuss the qualifications and challenges of national board service. Attendees will learn about crafting mission statements, the qualifications necessary to meaningfully participate in national board service, and the time commitment necessary to serve.

Presenters: Dave Huston, Plano West High School
 Reggie Chapman, Plano West High School

B06 Accounting for Neurodivergent Students

Room: The Generator
Sponsor: Instructional Development in Middle Schools
Coordinator: George Tennison, E. A. Olle Middle School
Chair: George Tennison, E. A. Olle Middle School

ADD/ADHD. Anxiety. Autism. Many of our students bring these challenges and more into the classroom but we will discuss and workshop methods and activities to change those challenges into assets across the events offered in competitive speech and debate.

Presenters: Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School
 Lillian Adeyemi, Alief Hastings High School

B07 Conquering the Complexities of Coaching

Room: The Spark
Sponsor: University Interscholastic League
Coordinator: Barb Ixba, Westlake High School
Chair: Barb Ixba, Westlake High School



Sometimes it feels like the work of a Speech & Debate Coach never ends, and that makes it difficult to know where to start. Join this panel to share tips and tricks for navigating the school year.

Presenters: Barb Ixba, Westlake High School

C01 TSCA: Celebrating Memories and 100 Years

Room: Starlight I
Sponsor: Rhetoric and Communication Theory
Coordinator: Amanda Jo Ratcliff, Tyler Junior College
Chair: Amanda Jo Ratcliff, Tyler Junior College

Join us for a walk down memory lane! As TSCA celebrates its 100th year, long-standing members will be interviewed about their memories of the organization. The interview will be recorded and portions will be transcribed to be included in the Golden Volume of the TSCJ.

Presenters: Marydell Fryar
 Lou Ann Seabourn
 Ann Shofner

C02 Legislative Responses to Recent Supreme Court Decisions

Room: The Workshop
Sponsor: Texas Forensic Association
Coordinator: Jenn Melin, Team Texas
Chair: Ryan Lovell, Tascosa High School



Last year, we took a deep dive into several rulings of the Supreme Court under Chief Justice John Roberts. In this session, we will continue this exploration and focus on Supreme Court rulings this past year. Participants will leave with an enhanced understanding of rulings as well as a list of possible legislative responses to those rulings. The end goal is for teachers to be prepared to guide students in crafting unique and timely Congress legislation for the Spring 2026 TFA docket.

Presenters: Ryan Lovell, Tascosa High School

C03 From AI to Agricultural: Communication in the University Classroom and Beyond

Room: The Catalyst
Sponsor: Sponsor: Instructional Development – College & University
Coordinator: Coordinator: Andre Favors, Lamar University
Chair: Chair: Andre Favors, Lamar University

This panel offers various perspectives on active communication research by our panelists.

Presenters: Ama Quansah, Texas Tech University
 "The role of communication in promoting agricultural development: A study of sustainable farming practices in the western region of Ghana"
Megan Cox and Jennifer White, University of Central Oklahoma
 "AI in Higher Education: Faculty and student perspectives on grading fairness and efficiency"
Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University
 "Integrating Agriculture Communication into the Curriculum: An Abilene-to-D.C. Case Study"

C04 Interpretation Workshop: Teaching Oral Interpretation in the Middle School Classroom

Room: The Generator

Sponsor: Instructional Development – Middle School

Coordinator: Heather Huffman, The Village School

Chair: Heather Huffman, The Village School

Learn how to teach/coach oral interpretation events at the middle school level.

Presenters: Heather Huffman, The Village School
Casey Garcia, Lone Star College Online

C05 Coaching from Day 1- A Tool Kit!

Room: The Spark

Sponsor: Texas Forensic Association

Coordinator: Jenn Melin, Team Texas

Chair: Hannah Rodriguez, Prosper High School



Panelists will share effective tools for organization, communication, practice planning, judging recruitment, and student development—everything a coach needs to survive (and thrive) in those crucial early days. Whether you're starting a program from scratch or stepping into an established one, this session will help you build a strong foundation from Day 1. Expect shared templates, lesson ideas, calendars, checklists, and real-world advice from experienced coaches who've been there.

Presenters: Brian Darby, Clear Creek High School
Hannah Rodriguez, Prosper High School

C06 Is There Anything More Complex than Speechwire?

Room: The Incubator

Sponsor: University Interscholastic League

Coordinator: Barb Ixba, Westlake High School

Chair: Kyla DeLeon, Wimberly High School

Learn how to run a UIL Speech Meet using everybody's favorite tab software.

Presenters: Kyla DeLeon, Wimberley High School
Skylar Walker, Caddo Mills High School

**FRIDAY—PANEL B PROGRAMS
4:00-4:50PM**

Is There Anything More Complex than Speechwire?

The Incubator
University Interscholastic League
Barb Ixba, Westlake High School
Kyla DeLeon, Wimberly High School



Learn how to run a UIL Speech Meet using everybody's favorite tab software.

Kyla DeLeon, Wimberly High School
Skylar Walker, Caddo Mills High School

C07 Making MS Policy Debate Accessible: Using AI and Scaffolding to Lower Barriers

Room: The Percolator
Sponsor: Texas Forensic Association
Coordinator: Jenn Melin, Team Texas
Chair: Cindi Timmons, Dallas Urban Debate Alliance



The Dallas Urban Debate Alliance, the second-largest UDL in the country, shows how they make middle school policy debate accessible to younger debaters across the UDL network by using AI to lower reading barriers and utilizing scaffolding techniques to ensure students have a greater chance of success in the format. These techniques could be used to expand middle school policy debate across the state, particularly timely considering the introduction of Middle School Policy Debate by UIL.

Presenters: **Cindi Timmons, Dallas Urban Debate Alliance**
Evan Gilbert, Dallas Urban Debate Alliance

D01 Starting and Refining a Middle School Circuit in Your Area

Room: The Catalyst

Sponsor: Instructional Development—Middle Schools

Coordinator: George Tennison, E. A. Olle Middle School

Chair: George Tennison, E. A. Olle Middle School

Learn how to start a middle school circuit in your area if you don't already have one.

Presenters: George Tennison, E. A. Olle Middle School

D02 Rhetorical Fieldwork: Assessing the 2025 Inauguration in D.C.

Room: The Generator

Sponsor: Rhetoric and Communication Theory

Coordinator: Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

Chair: Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

Come hear the insights and observations of an ACU graduate student research team led by Dr. Randall Fowler that (tried to) attend the presidential inauguration in person. During their time in DC, this team took a civic communication course facilitated by The Washington Center, visited the National Archives to immerse themselves in past inaugurations, studied the symbolic landscape of the National Mall, and participated in the rhetorically charged events on inauguration weekend to better grasp the significance of the moment. While not everyone can go to D.C., the methods of evaluation they used—in situ rhetorical criticism—are accessible to anyone with an interest in understanding how communication events shape public discourse, shared memory, and political meaning in real time. Come hear about their experience and join the discussion!

Presenters: Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University
Jodeyah Mills, Abilene Christian University
Amelia Little, Duquesne University
Thomas Sorensen, Abilene Christian University
Sutton Welch, Abilene Christian University
Hannah Knier, Abilene Christian University

D03 Beyond the Flow: Reframing How We Teach Framework

Room: Starlight I

Sponsor: Texas Forensic Association

Coordinator: Jenn Melin, Team Texas

Chair: Cindi Timmons, Dallas Urban Debate Alliance



Framework isn't just for flowing—it's for life. This session flips the script on how we teach it, using headline-grabbing current events, powerful visuals, and the sharp edges of political rhetoric. Discover how to help students craft persuasive lenses that work just as well in a final round as in a job interview, a community meeting, or a social media post. Walk away with activities that make the concept of framework relevant, memorable, and impossible to ignore.

Presenters: Cindi Timmons, Dallas Urban Debate Alliance
Aaron Timmons, Greenhill School

D04 Finding Your Voice in a New but Familiar World: Student and Coach Perspectives on the Differences Between High School and College Forensics

Room: The Percolator
Sponsor: Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association
Coordinator: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College
Chair: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College



While the structures of competitive speech at the high school and collegiate levels share core objectives, important distinctions exist. These differences can create challenges for students navigating the transition from high school to college forensics. This panel aims to examine these transitional dynamics by inviting student participants to reflect on their experiences and asking coaches to articulate key pedagogical and structural differences. Through this dialogue, the panel seeks to offer insights and strategies to support both emerging competitors and educators new to the collegiate forensics landscape.

Presenters: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College
Casey Garcia, Lone Star College-North Harris
Wade Hescht, Lone Star College-North Harris

D05 Charting the Course: How Forensics Shapes Campus Culture and Success

Room: The Incubator
Sponsor: University Interscholastic League
Coordinator: Barb Ixba, Westlake High School
Chair: Barb Ixba, Westlake High School



Geared for campus administrators. Allow us to share the impact of forensics on your campus' academic growth, college and career readiness, and community culture.

Presenters: Nicole Cornish, Quitman High School
Barb Ixba, Westlake High School

D06 Best Practices: Boundaries Between College Professors & Collegiate Students

Room: The Spark
Sponsor: Instructional Development – Colleges & Universities / Vice President
Coordinator: Karley Goen, Tarleton State University
Chair: Karley Goen, Tarleton State University

Setting boundaries with students can be a difficult and taxing experience with Generation Z. The utilization of office hours as counseling sessions, demands of meeting up before or after classes, the onslaught of personal requests, scheduling and providing accommodations within students' expectations can lead to time suck. We will be discussing practical boundary hacks and anecdotal evidence on how two college professors are navigating and handling the evolving expectations and pressures of the current classroom demographics.

Presenters: Karley Goen, Tarleton State University
Tracy Holley, Tarleton State University

D07 Navigating Student Choice in Speech Topics in the Classroom

Room: The Workshop

Sponsor: Texas Forensic Association

Coordinator: Jenn Melin, Team Texas

Chair: Hannah Rodriguez, Prosper High School



This panel explores how to effectively guide students in selecting speech topics that are meaningful, appropriate, and academically enriching. Panelists will discuss strategies for balancing student autonomy with curricular goals, addressing sensitive or controversial subject matter, and fostering inclusive classroom discussions. The session will offer practical tools for scaffolding topic selection, managing parent or administrative concerns, and encouraging students to find their voice while remaining mindful of audience and context. Ideal for new and experienced educators alike, this panel helps bridge the gap between freedom and responsibility in student speech.

Presenters: Brian Darby, Clear Creek High School
Hannah Rodriguez, Prosper High School

INTEREST GROUP SESSION THREE Saturday, 10:00-11:20

Interest Groups ensure that the professional development needs of the body are being met. The Texas Speech Communication Annual Convention provides a way for speech educators to connect and learn. Planning for 2025 convention will begin in these interest group meetings. Chairs and Vice-Chairs are encouraged to generate panel ideas and get soft commitments from individuals willing to present on these panels. They will then take that information and create panel proposals to send to the Vice President. Planning can and should continue throughout the Spring semester to ensure the best possible panel offerings. These are the foundational way that the organization can provide meaningful professional development for both the academic classroom, competition teams, and individual speech educators. Time has been added to these sessions to facilitate brainstorming, coordination between Interest Groups, and submitting reports.

Argumentation and Debate

Interpersonal and Organizational Communication

Rhetoric and Communication Theory

Theater

TJSDA State Planning Meeting 2

The Workshop

The Incubator

The Generator

The Spark

The Catalyst

SATURDAY—PANEL D PROGRAMS
9:00-9:50AM

E01 Navigating the Complexity of Educating in Texas

Room: Starlight I

Sponsor: Texas Forensic Association / Texas Speech Communication Association

Coordinator: Jenn Melin, Team Texas and Ryan Lovell, Tascosa High School



Presenters: Jarod Russell

E02 Working Smarter Not Harder: Embracing AI in the Speech and Debate World

Room: The Generator

Sponsor: Instructional Development – Middle School

Coordinator: Lindsey Petropoulos, Rice Middle School

Chair: Lindsey Petropoulos, Rice Middle School

Like it or not, artificial intelligence is here to stay. Work smarter, not harder, by embracing artificial intelligence.

Presenters: Casey Garcia, Lone Star College Online

Lindsey Petropoulos, Rice Middle School

E03 Debate, Discussion, and Dialogue: Comparative Discourse Models

Room: The Spark

Sponsor: Texas Forensic Association

Coordinator: Jenn Melin, Team Texas

Chair: Aaron Timmons, Greenhill School



The activity of debate has faced challenges in the past, but now it faces attacks from outside groups seeking its displacement. Discussion and dialogue have been proposed as alternatives. Consultants are being hired by districts and schools to advocate for replacing debate with "softer" options. However, debate offers unique benefits because it offers structure, rigor, and a demand for evidence-based reasoning that fosters critical thinking and persuasive communication. A deconstruction of the three discourse models shows the importance debate holds in our classrooms and communities.

Presenters: Aaron Timmons, Greenhill School

Cindi Timmons, Dallas Urban Debate Alliance

SATURDAY—PANEL PROGRAMS
1:30-2:20PM

E04 Great Ideas for Teaching Communication Theory

Room: The Incubator
Sponsor: Rhetoric and Communication, Instructional Development—College & University
Coordinator: Amanda Jo Ratcliff, Tyler Junior College
Chair: Carolyn Baum, West Texas A&M

A GIFTS session in which panelists provide application guidance to implementing communication theory across the curriculum.

Presenters: Klaire Smith, East Texas Baptist University
 J.D. Wallace, Abilene Christian University

E05 Onboarding Adjuncts and GTAs

Room: The Catalyst
Sponsor: Instructional Development – College & University
Coordinator: Andre Favors, Lamar University
Chair: Mark Paz, Texas State University

This panel will explore the challenges of onboarding adjunct instructors and graduate teaching assistants who are tasked with teaching general education communication and/or public speaking courses. These challenges include effectively training individuals with varying levels of teaching experience, establishing stable grading norms across sections, ensuring consistency in course delivery, and addressing the unique needs of students who are often apprehensive about speaking in front of their peers. By discussing strategies for preparation, training, mentorship, and ongoing support, this panel aims to provide practical solutions to enhance the success of course directors, instructors, and students in the communication classroom.

Presenters: Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University
 Leslie Rodriguez, Angelo State University
 Amy Tilton Jones, Del Mar CC

E06 Advocacy in the Real World: Using Forensics as a Bridge to Real Advocacy Work

Room: The Workshop
Sponsor: Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association
Coordinator: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College
Chair: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College



In recent years, students within the forensics community have increasingly approached their speech performances as a form of advocacy, using the platform to engage with and effect change within their local and broader communities. This is not to suggest that earlier forensics performances lacked impact or conviction; rather, it highlights a recurring challenge wherein the discursive practices of competitive speech often remain insular, confined to the competitive circuit. This panel seeks to explore how topic selection, composition, and performance can be strategically oriented to support and amplify students' existing or ongoing advocacy efforts, thereby bridging the gap between competitive speech and sustained civic engagement.

Presenters: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College
 Dillon McCoy, San Antonio College
 Presenter, University of Texas at Austin

E07 Emergency Planning for Coaches

Room: The Percolator

Sponsor: Texas Forensic Association

Coordinator: Jenn Melin, Team Texas

Chair: Andy Zeigler, Caprock High School



Tournament travel and tournament hosting offer unique opportunities for student growth and success. However, modern realities necessitate careful planning to ensure the safety of all participants to the greatest extent possible. This session will present ideas for best practices when planning for safety, both when traveling to a tournament, and when hosting a tournament. These suggestions are built on guidance from school district and city police departments.

Presenters: Mellessa Denny, Amarillo High School
Brett Howard, Canyon High School
Ryan Lovell, Tascosa High School
Heather Soltero, Tascosa High School
Andy Zeigler, Caprock High School

SATURDAY—PANEL E PROGRAMS
1:30-2:20PM