

August 31, 2005

**To: Middle School Debate Coaches and Students**  
**From: Kara Grant, Co-Director of the Atlanta Urban Debate League**  
**Emory University, Barkley Forum**

Hello, everyone! It's great to have you back. If you are new to debate, then welcome to the activity. I know of no better tool with which to teach students critical thinking and public speaking skills than policy debate, and I hope your time teaching debate is fruitful.

You should have received an email from Christy Bradley in the Barkley Forum office yesterday with the evidence packets for novice, junior varsity, and varsity. If you did not receive the packet, please email me and let me know. Please make sure your students know that they only need to read the underlined parts of the cards. Also, encourage them to read through the 1AC and the frontlines aloud to make sure they can target any words they don't know. The 1AC is long, so please help them highlight it down.

I'm sure Christy has made you aware of my situation. The baby we were expecting in November has decided to try to make a summer appearance, so I will be in the hospital until the baby is born, and then I will be out of commission on maternity leave. So, unfortunately, I will not be able to be at the opening tournaments as I had planned. In my absence, the details of running the middle school league will be left in the capable hands of three people: Betty Maddox (bmaddo2@emory.edu), former forensics consultant for Atlanta Public Schools who is now a Barkley Forum employee; Isaac Wolf (iwolf@learnlink.emory.edu), recent Emory graduate who will be doing many of my tasks while I am away; and Christy Bradley (christy.bradley@emory.edu), who has been in the tab room at middle school tournaments over the past two years. If you have any questions about anything, they may all be reached at the Barkley Forum office: (404) 727-6189 or (404) 727-7178. Thanks for your patience with this transition!

This memo contains the tournament schedule for the year and explains the procedures for the season.

#### **2005-2006 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

September 17	Summerour Middle School
October 15	Coan Middle School
November 12	Taylor Road Middle School (hosted by Chattahoochee High School)
December 3	Brown Middle School
January 21	Harper Archer Middle School
February 18	Inman Middle School
March 25	State Championship, Pace Academy

**Note: All tournaments will include a judge training session**

#### **TOURNAMENT PROCEDURE**

- **The Middle School Debate League will use the High School debate resolution for the tournament season.** The exact wording is as follows: *Resolved: The U.S. federal government should substantially decrease its authority either to detain without charge or to search without probable cause.*
- **Schools wishing to participate in the middle school league will be required to pay an annual \$300 fee, which will cover the costs of running the tournaments.** Schools will not be allowed

to compete in tournaments until we have received their entry fee. Checks should be made payable to the National Debate Project and mailed to: The National Debate Project, P.O. Box 15087, Atlanta, GA 30333.

- **Tournaments will have four rounds of debate.**
- **Tournaments will include three divisions of debate.** Make sure to specify when you register if your students are to be put in varsity, junior varsity or novice. *For the first tournament, there will only be two divisions: varsity and novice. Since junior varsity is only made up of students who have won awards in novice during the current season, there shouldn't be anyone in this category (unless there were some tournaments during August I don't know about!).*
- **Pre-registration must take place by the Wednesday before a Saturday tournament by 5:00 p.m.** These can be faxed to the Barkley Forum or emailed to Christy Bradley at christy.bradley@emory.edu. ***Email is preferred, so we can contact you easily if we have questions about your registration.*** Please use the enclosed form for your pre-registration; if you are emailing, make sure to include all the information included in the form.
- **Schools must register no later than 8:30 a.m. for tournaments.** It is impossible for us to start round one by 9:00 a.m. unless we have everyone registered on time. Late starts make for longer days, wasted time and frustrated coaches and debaters. **There will be a new policy this year: If you have not checked in with the registration table by 9:00 a.m., your teams will forfeit Round 1 then be added in for subsequent rounds.**
- **If you are running late the morning of a tournament (your bus didn't show, your driver got lost, or whatever reason), please call Christy on her cell phone (404-432-7920) to let her know.** If she doesn't hear from you by 9:00, she will assume you are not coming and will delete your teams.
- **Try to limit changes.** We understand that some students do not show up the morning of a tournament, but unnecessary partner changes will not be allowed. If there are changes that you are aware of on Thursday or Friday before a tournament, please try to contact us.
- **We will also make efforts to limit maverick debating.** We will re-pair maverick debaters with mavericks from other schools. This will be done to avoid three person rotations as well as single person teams.
- **Because we are attempting to maintain a level playing field for all students, no students who compete in high school policy debate tournaments may compete in middle school tournaments.**
- **Each school is required to provide one judge (available all four rounds) per two teams entered in a tournament.** To help you meet this requirement, there will be a judge training session during each tournament. We will have a discussion either before the tournament starts or during the first round of the day, then potential judges will be paired with an experienced judge to observe and assist in judging. **PLEASE BRING ANY PARENTS, FELLOW TEACHERS, SPOUSES, ETC. WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JUDGING AT ANY POINT DURING THE SEASON TO ONE OF THESE TRAINING SESSIONS. THERE IS NO DEBATE EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!** If you are not able to provide the requested number of judges for one tournament, we will still allow teams to compete, but if there are repeated issues with the judge requirement, we will have to ask students whose judging is not covered to observe at a tournament instead of compete.

Here are the distinctions between the three divisions:

#### **Varsity Division**

- Varsity debaters will be provided with a packet of evidence from the Barkley Forum that they will be required to use. Absolutely no new evidence will be allowed in the varsity division. This

includes topicality and new cards for the old files. Also, the packet is a teaching tool, so please do not re-cut the evidence; use it in the form in which it was prepared.

- If your students are ready to go beyond the expanded varsity evidence set (such as conducting original research, modifying the plan text, or re-tagging the evidence set), then please consider entering them in novice high school debate.
- Every two months, the Barkley Forum will provide an update to the varsity evidence packet, which all varsity debaters will then be able to use at subsequent tournaments.
- This division is for all debaters with one year of debate experience or more and beginners who wish to debate at a more advanced level. All students who debated in four tournaments or more during the 2004-2005 debate season must compete in the varsity division. Now that there are limited evidence rules for varsity, our hope is that the move to varsity will be less intimidating for students. Please treat the move up as an opportunity for students to expand their horizons and do not try to hold eligible students behind in lower divisions.
- The time limits for the varsity division are: five-minute constructives, three-minute rebuttals and two-minute cross-examination time. Each team has ten minutes of preparation time.

### **JUNIOR VARSITY DIVISION**

- This division is for beginners who are slightly more advanced than other beginners, not varsity teams that are nervous. Any novice that has won a **team** award (even just one) must be in this division, even if his or her partner is a true beginner. Team awards are the best way to measure how much a student knows.
- The rules and time limits are the same as they are for novice.
- Debaters who perform well here will be moved into varsity. Debate coaches should prepare their students for the possibility of being promoted because we will not make exceptions about staying in junior varsity.

### **NOVICE DIVISION**

- This division is for beginners in debate. Absolutely no debaters with a year of experience can debate in this division, even if their partners are beginners (they should be in varsity). Absolutely no debaters that have won a team award may debate in this division, even if their partners are beginners (they should be in junior varsity). Debate coaches should prepare their students for the possibility of being promoted because we will not make exceptions about staying in novice.
- Novice debaters will be provided with a packet of evidence from the Barkley Forum that they will be required to use. Absolutely no new evidence will be allowed in the novice division. This includes topicality and new cards for the old files. Also, the packet is a teaching tool, so please do not re-cut the evidence; use it in the form in which it was prepared.
- The time limits for the novice division are: four-minute constructives, two-minute rebuttals and two-minute cross-examination time. Each team has ten minutes of preparation time.

### **HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Barkley Forum Office	404-727-6189
Urban Debate League Office	404-727-7178
Barkley Forum Fax	404-727-5367
Christy Bradley	
Email	christy.bradley@emory.edu
Cell (for use on the morning of tournaments only)	404-432-7920
Betty Maddox	
Email	bmaddo2@emory.edu
Isaac Wolf	

Email

[iwolf@learnlink.emory.edu](mailto:iwolf@learnlink.emory.edu)

Thanks for reading, and I'll be thinking of you as you embark on the debate season! Take care.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBATE REGISTRATION**  
**FAX TO CHRISTY BRADLEY at 404-727-5367 or email cbradl4@emory.edu**

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ COACH(ES) \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGES FOR THIS TOURNAMENT \_\_\_\_\_

**NOVICE DIVISION (List full names of partners)**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**JUNIOR VARSITY DIVISION**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**VARSITY DIVISION**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

ADD AN ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY