



November 23, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the American Enterprise Institute's [Values & Capitalism](#) project and Colorado Christian University, we would like to invite your team to attend the 2016 Values & Capitalism NPDA Invitational Tournament at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel in downtown Washington, DC on February 5–6.

This unique tournament will draw upon AEI's rich history of public policy analysis and will offer Open Division competition. The tournament begins at 11:00 am on Friday and will conclude with an awards ceremony at 4:00 pm on Saturday. In addition to the traditional judging pool, AEI scholars and staff members and local DC professionals will also adjudicate some tournament rounds. Tabulation will be conducted by experienced, college-level tournament directors.

There is no fee for participating and the Values & Capitalism Project will provide meals and meal vouchers during the tournament, as well as partial travel vouchers for all teams based on distance from Washington, DC. Each school may bring a maximum of three teams. To register, please visit our [tournament registration page](#) on ForensicTournament.net or contact us at Meredith.Schultz@aei.org or cleland@ccu.edu with your list of NPDA teams and judges, as well as any tournament questions you might have.

We hope that you will be able to join us in February.

With best wishes,

Meredith Schultz
Program Manager
Values & Capitalism Project
American Enterprise Institute

Dr. Chris Leland
AVP – Curriculum and Instruction,
Director of Debate
Colorado Christian University

TOURNAMENT SPECIFICS

Event Rules: Debate will follow NPDA guidelines and rules (found at <http://www.parlidebate.org/npda-rules/>). Teams will be given 15 minutes of preparation time once the topic is announced. Team preparation space will be available in the Mayflower's State Room, which will also have wireless internet access (login information provided at check-in).

Any regularly enrolled undergraduate in a two or four-year college is eligible to participate in Open Division competition. Due to space constraints there will be no Novice Division offered. Each school may bring a maximum of three teams. Oral critiques at the end of each round should be kept to a minimum, instructional in nature, and constructive. Disclosure is at the discretion of the judges.

Topics: The tournament will focus on topics that are central to AEI's Values & Capitalism project, including: free market economics, anti-poverty policy, financial policy, and education policy. Each round will focus on one of these policy areas. Topics will be formulated to allow for broad thinking and full engagement with the topic areas.

Judging: While the judges from the AEI community are fluent in public policy and current events, most do not have formal debate experience and will value clear communication over technical details. Debaters should take this into consideration when developing their communication strategies for each round.

Awards: Awards will be given to the top five speakers, as well as to each team who advances to out-round competition. Overall team sweepstakes awards will be given to the top three schools. Sweepstakes will be calculated using 3 points for each win in preliminary rounds and 5 points for each win in out-rounds for up to three teams per division.

VENUES

The tournament will take place at the [Mayflower Renaissance Hotel](#), located at [1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036](#). The Friday evening dinner will take place at AEI's headquarters next door to the Mayflower, at [1150 17th Street, NW](#).

MEALS

AEI will host a dinner program, featuring a speaker from our scholar community on Friday (February 5), and will provide additional funds to purchase breakfast and lunch on Saturday (February 6). Lunch will also be provided for teams and judges participating in the final round on Saturday. Please let us know when registering if any of your team members require a vegetarian meal on Friday night.

TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, DC

Reagan National Airport is the closest airport to AEI and is accessible by the Metro rail system. Dulles International Airport and Baltimore-Washington International Airport are also in the greater Washington, DC area, but are not connected to Metro rail.

- Reagan National Airport (DCA): Arlington, VA; 5 miles from the Mayflower
- Dulles International Airport (IAD): Dulles, VA; 27 miles from the Mayflower
- Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI): Baltimore, MD; 37 miles from the Mayflower

AEI will offer partial travel vouchers for teams based on distance from Washington, DC. Each voucher includes an additional \$60 per team to offset the costs of purchasing meals throughout the weekend.

Location	Travel Voucher	Meal Voucher	Total
Within 400 miles of DC	\$100 per team	\$60 per team	\$160 per team
More than 400 miles from DC, but east of the Mississippi.	\$200 per team	\$60 per team	\$260 per team
West of the Mississippi	\$300 per team	\$60 per team	\$360 per team

To receive the vouchers, coaches must complete and submit a check requisition form and a W9 form at the tournament or within four weeks of the tournament's conclusion.

LODGING

While there are no official hotels for this tournament, there are several locations within walking distance of AEI. Due to the National Prayer Breakfast taking place on Thursday, February 4th, we expect high occupancy over this weekend, and recommend reserving rooms for your teams as soon as possible.

Holiday Inn, Central/White House

1501 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
0.3 miles from the Mayflower

Doubletree by Hilton

1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
0.3 miles from the Mayflower

Beacon Hotel

1615 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
0.3 miles from the Mayflower

METRO RAIL SYSTEM AND PARKING FACILITIES

If you would like to stay at a hotel that is not within walking distance of downtown Washington, the Mayflower is conveniently located near the [Farragut West](#) (orange and blue lines) and [Farragut North](#) (red line) Metro Stations. To calculate train fares or trip distances, visit the [Metro website](#).

There are also several [parking garages near the Mayflower](#) where you can park during the tournament. Average rates for all day parking range from \$15.00–\$30.00. Please note that many downtown garages have height limitations and cannot accommodate 15 passenger vans. We recommend checking with your hotel when making reservations to ensure adequate parking facilities are available. The [Union Station parking garage](#), located 4 Metro stops from the Mayflower on the red line, is able to accommodate vehicles with up to a 12'7" clearance.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 5

11:00 am: Registration, State Room, Mayflower Renaissance Hotel

12:00 pm: Topic Announce - Round 1

12:15 pm: Round 1

2:00 pm: Topic Announce - Round 2

2:15 pm: Round 2

3:30 pm: Topic Announce - Round 3

3:45 pm: Round 3

5:00 pm: Topic Announce - Round 4

5:15 pm: Round 4

6:30 pm: Dinner (provided), AEI

Saturday, February 6

8:00 am: Topic Announce – Round 5

8:15 am: Round 5

10:00 am: Topic Announce First Elimination Rounds

10:15 am: First Elimination Rounds

11:30 am: Awards

12:00 pm: Topic Announce Second Elimination Rounds

12:15 am: Second Elimination Round

1:30 pm: Lunch for remaining teams (provided)

2:00 pm: Final Round Topic Announce

2:15 pm: Final Round