



**American Forensic Association
National Individual Events Tournament**

AFA-NIET

November 2015

Dear Director of Forensics:

On behalf of the American Forensic Association and the NIET Committee, I would like to extend this invitation to you and your students to participate in the thirty-ninth American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament (AFA-NIET). This year's competition will be held at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, April 1-4, 2016. Please note that this is a Saturday-Monday schedule with registration on Friday.

PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF INFORMATION ARE NO LONGER INCLUDED IN THIS INVITATION: THESE ARE CONTAINED ON THE AFA- NIET WEBSITE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH SCHOOL TO READ THIS INFORMATION.

1. QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES
2. DISTRICT TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION INFORMATION
3. STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS – MUST BE SENT TO YOUR DISTRICT CHAIR
4. GUIDELINES FOR ALL JUDGES AT THE NIET FORM – Must be signed by all school judges and presented at registration.
5. BID TO HOST FUTURE AFA-NIET
6. ALL-AMERICAN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TEAM NOMINATION PROCESS AND FORM
7. OUTSTANDING NEW FORENSICS COACH AWARD
8. At-LARGE QUALIFICATION FORMS – TO BE SENT TO YOUR DISTRICT CHAIR

All of us associated with the AFA-NIET are very excited about the 2016 tournament. Professor Kellie Roberts (in her third time hosting the NIET at UF) and her Gator team are working diligently to make this an outstanding National Tournament. We hope you and your squad will join us in Gainesville, FL, for exemplary competition and tremendous hospitality. Professor Larry Schnoor from Minnesota State University-Mankato and Communication Links has consented to continue as this year's National Tournament Director.

At-Large Qualifications:

SEE WEBSITE (afa-niet.org) FOR QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES. At-large qualifications must be earned by March 12 and entries received by March 14. Tournaments hosted on Mar. 13 will not count for qualifications (with the exception of recognized national or international tournaments; check with Prof. Schnoor if you have questions). Drop fees etc. will begin on March 15.

Bids for AFA-NIET 2018 and 2020

We are accepting bids to host the 2018 and 2020 NIET. Bids for 2018 will be reviewed at the November 2015 NIET Committee Meeting in conjunction with NCA, so if you are interested in hosting please contact Larry Schnoor or Peter Pober for all necessary information. A check list of what is needed to host is located at our website.

Congratulations and Thank You:

We congratulate all who competed at the 2015 NIET. Special congratulations to Western Kentucky University, who won the Team Sweepstakes Award, to City College of San Francisco who won the Team Community College Sweepstakes Award, and to Farrah Bara from the University of Texas at Austin, who was named the Individual Sweepstakes Champion. We also congratulate those students who were named to the 2015 AFA-NIET All-American Team. The AFA-NIET Committee awarded The 2015 Outstanding New Coach Awards to Professor Amy Arellano of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Professor Alyssa Reid of James Madison University, and Professor Nathaniel Wilson of Doane College. We are excited to return to the University of Florida for the 2016 NIET and eagerly await our return to Bradley University for the 2017 NIET. Finally, our thanks to Professor Joe Gantt and his entire team for an incredibly hospitable 2015 NIET.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your District Chair or me. Contact information for tournament and district officials is included in this invitation.

Sincerely,
Peter Pober, Ph.D
AFA-NIET Committee Chair
Distinguished Service Professor
George Mason University

NIET National Chair

Professor Peter Pober
(703) 993-4119
Department of Communication
George Mason University
MSN 3D6, 4400 University Dr.
Fairfax, VA 22030
FAX: 703-993-1096
ppober@gmu.edu

NIET Tournament Director 2015 NIET Host

Professor Larry Schnoor
(507) 387-3010
107 Agency Road
Mankato, MN 56001
FAX: 507-387-3068
lschnoor@hickorytech.net

Professor Kellie Roberts
(352) 273-1655
Dial Center for Written and Oral Comm
402 Rolfs Hall P.O. Box 112032
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
FAX: 352-392-5420
robertsk@ufl.edu

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:**District: 1**

Geographic: CA, NV, HI

Tournament: Feb. 8 at San Francisco State University

District Chair: John M. Kephart III, CSU-Northridge, csundebate@gmail.com, 818-677-3043

District: 2

Geographic: OR, WA, ID, MT, AK, CSU Humboldt

Tournament: February 20 at Oregon State University
District Chair: Joe Gantt, Lewis and Clark College, jgantt@lclark.edu, 503-768-7729

District: 3

Geographic: OK, KS, TX, MO, LA, AR
Tournament: March 5 at Bethel College, KS
District Chair: Randy Cox, University of Texas at Austin, mrcox@austin.utexas.edu, 512-471-1957

District: 4

Geographic: ND, WI, MN, SD, NE, IA
Tournament: March 12 at University of Northern Iowa
District Chair: Kelly Jo Wright, University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, wrightkj@uwec.edu, 715-836-4177

District: 5

Geographic: IL, MI, IN, OH, Truman State, MO
Tournament: March 12 at Northern Illinois University
District Chair: Ken Young, Bradley University, Kyoung@bradley.edu, 309-677-2439

District: 6

Geographic: GA, TN, FL, AL, NC, SC, MS, KY
Tournament: January 23 at the University of Alabama
District Chair: Jennifer Talbert, William Carey University, jtalbert@wmcarey.edu, 601-318-6775

District: 7

Geographic: VA, MD, NJ, DE, PA, WV, DC, Ohio University, University of Akron
Tournament: March 4-6 at Northern Virginia Community College
District Chair: Tim Brown, Cedar Crest College, tbrown@cedarcrest.edu, 610-606-4666, ext.3561

District: 9

Geographic: UT, WY, CO, NM, AZ, El Paso, TX, E. Montana College
Tournament: Feb. 20-1 at University of Utah
District Chair: Christopher Leland, Colorado Christian University, Cleland@ccu.edu, 303-963-3479

AFA-NIET Hotel Information:

Here is the information for making reservations at the Paramount Plaza Hotel:
2900 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL, 32608
Tel: 352-377-4000 Fax: 352-371-1159

The rate is \$82 for rooms with 1 king or 2 double beds plus taxes.

Guests can book 24 hours a day/7 days a week, using the special rate that has been secured with the hotel. Guests can make reservations by calling the hotel directly at 352-377-4000 or 877-992-9229 and refer to the group code “AFA-NIET” to receive the discounted rate.

The cut-off date for the room block is March 7, 2016.

TENTATIVE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
American Forensic Association
2016 National Individual Events Tournament

Friday, April 1

9:30-11:30 & 1-4 NIET Comm. Meeting – Paramount Plaza Hotel
9:30-11:30 Student Reps Meeting – Paramount Plaza Hotel
7-9 PM Registration – Paramount Plaza Hotel
(\$150.00 late registration fee after 9 PM)

Saturday, April 2

University of Florida

7:30 AM Opening Assembly in Reitz Union, University of Florida
8:15 AM Extemp Draw
8:45 AM Round 1 B Events (Duo, Extemp, Pers, POI)
10:45 AM Round 1 A Events (Pr, Imp, Inf)
12:00-2:00 LUNCH
1:45 PM Round 2 A Events
3:30 PM Round 1 C Events (ADS, CA, DI, Poet)
5:15 PM Round 3 A Events
6:30 PM Extemp Draw
7:00 PM Round 2 B Events

Sunday, April 3

University of Florida

8:00 AM Extemp Draw III
8:30 AM Round 3 B Events
10:15 AM Round 2 C Events
12:00 PM Round 3 C Events
12:30-2:30 PM LUNCH
2:45 PM QF A Events
4:15 PM Extemp Draw
4:45 PM QF B Events
6:30 PM QF C Events

Monday, April 4

University of Florida

8:00 AM SF A Events
9:30 AM Extemp Draw
9:45 AM Semi Finals for Group B events (Except Extemp)
10:00 AM Semi Finals Extemp
11:30 AM Semi Finals for Group C events
1:15 PM Finals for Group A events.
2:30 PM Extemp Draw
3:00 PM Finals, Group B events (Except Extemp)
3:15 PM Finals Extemp
4:45 PM Finals, Group C events
7:30 PM Awards

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Date and Site:

April 1-4 (FRI, SAT, SUN, MON)

Registration is Friday evening 7-9 pm April 1

2. Subscription Fee:

Schools wishing to participate in District Tournaments and the 2016 AFA-NIET must pay a \$30.00 subscription fee (\$50 will be assessed after December 1, 2015). No fees will be accepted after registration ends for your district qualifier tournament. Subscription fees should be sent to your respective District Chairperson. **Every School must have an individual AFA member at their institution in order to register for the NIET.**

3. Meal Package Fee:

There is no meal package this year, so all participants are free to eat on their own.

4. AFA Membership Requirement:

All schools attending the NIET must include at least one person on their roster/staff/faculty that is a member of the AFA. This is not NIET membership, but membership within the parent organization of the AFA. Membership can be obtained as follows: a) the director/coach can join for \$75 with the journal; b) the director/coach can join for a non-journal membership at \$50; c) any student on the team can join for \$20 as either an undergraduate or graduate. Membership can be obtained through the AFA website at americanforensics.org. **Entry into the NIET will require the name of the school's AFA member. Failure to provide this information will result in a \$50 fee assessed by the NIET in order for the school to attend.**

AFA-NIET ELIGIBILITY:

1. Schools:

- a. Any accredited (or pursuing accreditation) two or four-year college/university shall be eligible to send participants to the AFA-NIET.
- b. To gain eligibility, participating institutions must be in good financial standing with the financial requirements established by the AFA-NIET Committee and the Board of Trustees.

2. Students:

- a. PARTICIPANTS IN THE AFA-NIET MUST BE FULL- OR PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED FOR A MINIMUM OF SIX HOURS. The minimum of six hours of required academic work must be taken at the institution the student is representing at the NIET. A student must be pursuing a program of study or an associate or baccalaureate degree at the institution they are representing at the NIET.
 1. A part-time student at an institution may not represent that institution at the NIET if they are also pursuing an associate or baccalaureate degree at another institution.
 2. A student who has completed the requirement for an associate degree at an institution is no longer eligible to compete for that institution. A person is considered as possessing an associate degree upon his/her completion of requirements toward that degree and having been approved for graduation by his/her respective school.
 3. An appeal for a waiver of these provisions may be made using the same procedures as outlined in the by-laws for students who have received bachelor degrees.
- b. Students possessing a bachelor's degree WHO HAVE NO FORENSIC EXPERIENCE may request a one-year waiver of the undergraduate rule. Requests should be made to the NIET Chair.

1. An undergraduate is defined by the AFA-NIET Committee as an individual who has not received a Bachelor's Degree. (A student is considered as possessing a baccalaureate upon completion of requirements toward that degree and having been approved for graduation by her/his respective school).
 2. No person shall be allowed to participate in more than four years of national individual events tournaments (including PRP, PKD, DSR-TKA, AND NFA) as a contestant.
- c. No student who has competed in eight or more six-month periods (July 1-December 25, or December 26-June 30) in three or more tournaments per period of time will be eligible to compete in the AFA-NIET.
 - d. If a participant qualifies for the AFA-NIET while eligible under the above requirements and then graduates during the academic year, he/she will be permitted to compete in the NIET for that year. (Mid-year graduates may not compete at District Qualifiers.)
 - e. A student may not pursue at-large qualification after the final day of the term in which he/she has met the requirements for graduation and has been approved for graduation by the student's respective school.
 - f. An undergraduate who judges in the open division of a forensics tournament, (a division which qualifies for AFA-NIET at-large legs), permanently forfeits his/her eligibility to compete at the AFA-NIET District or National Tournaments.
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NATIONAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

1. Number of Rounds:

There shall be three preliminary rounds followed by quarterfinals, semifinals and a final round in each of the events. In preliminary rounds, a mechanical pairing system will be used so that as far as possible, contestants from the same school will not meet each other. The elimination rounds will be paired on a schematic system.

2. Judges:

Two judges shall be used per section in the preliminary rounds; multi-panel judges will be employed in the elimination rounds. In determining elimination round contestants, the lowest rank and rating (not necessarily on the same ballot) will be dropped from the cumulative total of prelim scores.

3. Ballot and Ranking:

The ballots will use a ranking of 1 to 5 with 1 being the top performance in the preliminary rounds. In the elimination rounds, the ballots will use a ranking of 1 through 6. The ballots shall use a rating graduated from 1 to 25 points, with 1 being the lowest rating and 25 being the highest rating. Points will be grouped as follows: 1 to 5--Poor; 6 to 10--Fair; 11 to 15--Average; 16-20--Excellent; and 21-25--Superior.

4. Awards:

Individual awards will be presented to those contestants advancing to the elimination rounds. These awards are based on preliminary and elimination rounds. The following point system will be used: 3 points for each 1st, 2 points for each 2nd, and 1 point for each 3rd place ballot received during preliminary rounds; and elimination round points based on the following scale: 6 points for each 1st place, 5 points for each 2nd place, 4 points for each 3rd place, 3 points for each 4th place, 2 points for each 5th place and 1 point for all other places. The student must be eligible and compete in four AFA-NIET events at the National Tournament before being considered for the Individual Sweepstakes awards. Twenty awards will be offered in this category.

School Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top twenty schools based on results of performance in preliminary and elimination rounds. The top three students from each school in each event will be awarded points for the team based on the following system: 3 points for 1st, 2 for 2nd and 1 for 3rd. The points are then cut in half. Elimination round points are awarded based on the same system as the individual sweepstakes points outlined in the above paragraph. A "Top Community College Sweepstakes Award" will also be given when a minimum of five community colleges are participating.

5. General Rules Interpretation:

- a. A student may be entered in two dramatic duos if both have qualified. The student, however, may not enter another event in that conflict block--two duos count as two events.
- b. All rounds of Impromptu and Extemporaneous Speaking will be timed by the judge or the judge panel and time signals will be given to contestants unless otherwise specifically requested by the contestant.
- c. A contestant may not use the same cutting/content or any portion of that cutting/content in more than one event at any given tournament.
- d. In Extemporaneous Speaking, the use of electronic information retrieval systems, during any part of preparation time, is strictly prohibited. Attendance in the Extemporaneous Speaking preparation room is restricted to monitors appointed by

the Tournament Director and the contestants in the event. Because Extemporaneous Speaking is an individual event, contestants are expected to prepare speeches on their own without consultation with others. The final round of Extemporaneous Speaking will include a cross-examination period for each speaker.

- e. Coaches and/or students must have available at the District and National NIET tournaments original scripts for all interpretive events and texts of speeches for all original events including a bibliography of all sources cited.
- f. All final rounds of interpretation events will be audio taped at the NIET solely for the purpose of possible Ethical Use of Literature violations. All final rounds of public address events are videotaped.
- g. Any research conducted at the NIET must be approved. Contact the NIET Chair for further information.

6. Hosting the AFA-NIET:

The AFA-NIET National Committee has voted to employ an "open" bid system for the location of the national tournament site. The National Committee is committed to moving the AFA-NIET around the nation as much as possible. Anyone wishing to be considered as host for the 2018 or 2020 AFA-NIET should prepare a bid package including the Bid-To-Host Form (found at the afa-niet.org website) and submit all documents to both the AFA-NIET Chair, Prof. Peter Pober, and the NIET Director, Prof. Larry Schnoor, NO LATER THAN **MARCH 14, 2016**.

7. Data for At-Large Qualification:

Please keep a complete record of all necessary data required on the At-Large Qualification Form. The At-Large Qualification Form is attached to this tournament letter. A separate form should be kept for each of your students. Remember that the At-Large Qualification Form must be submitted to your District Chair, **and should arrive no later than one week before your District Qualifier**. SUBMISSION OF THE AT-LARGE QUALIFICATION FORM DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFICIAL ENTRY. Official entries must be submitted on the tournament entry form at Speechwire.com.

8. Student Enrollment Verification Form

Each school participating at the AFA-NIET must submit the Student Enrollment Verification Form for all students competing at the AFA-NIET. SEE WEBSITE FOR THIS FORM. **Verification forms should be sent to your District Chair and NOT the tournament Director.**

AFA-NIET 2015-2016 Description of Events

A EVENTS

Impromptu Speaking: An impromptu speech, serious in nature, with topic selections varied by round and by section. Topics will be derived from quotations. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. Limited notes are permitted.

Informative Speaking: An original, factual speech by the student on a realist subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

Prose Interpretation: A selection or selections of prose material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the narrative/story. Play cuttings and poetry are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

B EVENTS

Dramatic Duo: A cutting from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be off-stage and not to each other. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Extemporaneous Speaking: Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current events, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the student. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. Limited notes are permitted. Student will speak in listed order. Postings of topics will be staggered.

Persuasive Speaking: An original speech by the student designed to inspire, reinforce, or change the beliefs, attitudes, values or actions of the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Program Oral Interpretation: A program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme through the use of narrative/story, language, and/or characterization. A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. Different genre means the material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., A poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre.) Only one selection may be original. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

C EVENTS

After Dinner Speaking: An original, humorous speech by the student, designed to exhibit sound speech composition, thematic, coherence, direct communicative public speaking skills, and good taste. The speech should not resemble a night club act, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforced the message. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Communication Analysis: An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc., through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Drama Interpretation: A cutting that represents one or more characters from a play or plays of literary merit. A primary focus of this event is on the development of characterization. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Poetry Interpretation: A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of language. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

ALL MATERIALS USED IN COMPETITION SHALL NOT HAVE BEEN USED BY THE STUDENT IN INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

AFA-NIET ETHICAL USE OF LITERATURE POLICY:

1. Contestants may not rewrite a prose, a poem, or a dramatic text so the work differs from the original text.
2. Contestants may not add or reassign scenes or lines to the performed cutting. Although an occasional line might be added, especially if a character has been deleted. This practice should be discouraged.
3. Contestants may not rewrite the ending of a work.
4. Contestants may not rewrite lines to change the gender or person of a character.
5. Contestants may not perform a text in a genre for which it has not been written.
6. Protests should be filed according to AFA-NIET Charter Bylaws Section X.

Entry Form: AFA-NIET 2016

The AFA-NIET entry form has been deleted from this invitation. You will need to go directly to the <http://www.speechwire.com/afaniet> to register. Once at Speechwire, you will be asked to create an account using a password you choose. The Tournament Director will verify your entry and payment of dues required and a confirmation will be sent to you prior to the national tournament. Should you have any questions about your account or Speechwire, please feel free to contact support@speechwire.com. You will also find a step-by-step guide to your Speechwire account at the NIET website, www.afa-niet.org as well as the Speechwire link above.

All Schools are *REQUIRED* to use Speechwire to register
Self-designed forms will be returned
Entry Must Be Received by Monday, March 14, 2016

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES PER SCHOOL AT THE AFA-NIET IS CAPPED AT 66 SLOTS.

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR SPEECHWIRE ACCOUNT ON OR BEFORE Monday,
MARCH 14, 2016!**

For Emergencies, contact:
Prof. Larry Schnoor, AFA-NIET Director
107 Agency Road
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 387-3010
FAX: (507) 387-3068
email: lschnoor@hickorytech.net

**AMERICAN FORENSIC ASSOCIATION-NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TOURNAMENT
At Large Reporting Form**

STUDENT: _____ (fill out one form for each student)
 SCHOOL: _____
 COACH: _____ Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

	Event	Rank	Tournament	Date	# of Schools	Number of Entries
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GROUP A EVENTS: Informative/Prose/Impromptu

1 st event in "A"						
2 nd event in "A"						

GROUP B EVENTS: Extemporaneous/Dramatic Duo/Persuasion/Program Oral Interpretation

1 st event in "B"						
2 nd event in "B"						

GROUP C EVENTS: Poetry/Communication Analysis/After Dinner Speaking/Interpretation of Drama

1 st event in "C"						
2 nd event in "C"						

COACH: I have certified that the above information is correct and meets the requirements for the AFA-NIET At-Large Qualification Procedures. One copy is to be sent to your District Chair – DO NOT SEND THIS FROM TO THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.

Remember that the At-Large Qualification Form must be submitted to your District Chair, **and should arrive no later than one week before your District Qualifier.**

COACH'S
SIGNATURE: _____

INVOICE NUMBER 2015-2016
American Forensic Association
National Individual Events Tournament

Subscription Fee for the American Forensic Association's National Individual Events Tournament.
Payment due by December 1, 2015.

Amount due: \$30.00 (\$50.00 if postmarked after December 1).

Remit Payment to: **DISTRICT CHAIR AFA-NIET**

Subscribing School: _____ Coach: _____

Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

Consult the information section on District Tournaments for the name of your District Chairperson. Make checks payable to your District Chairperson. If you have received an invoice from your District Chair, ignore this request for payment.

<p><i>last updated: November 2015</i> Peter Pober, ppober@gmu.edu Larry Schnoor, lschnoor@hickorytech.net</p>
