

The Claremont Colleges Debate Union will host a newly designed college debate tournament in the BP format, Friday-Sunday, November 17-19, 2017, on the campus of Claremont McKenna College (just awaiting facilities confirmation for a formal announcement).

The tournament will apply a number of tournament and format features of the Debate Union's Public Debate Program (PDP). The PDP is a proprietary class and contest secondary school debate program, with more than 800,000 participating teachers and students in 29 countries. Tournament features will include:

- 10 rounds of debate for all registered teams – event registration fee provides the same number of debates and amenities for all participants; no formal elimination rounds; de facto, multiple elimination rounds based on the debate round total
- An option for busy teams to select a 6-round tournament option – rounds 1-6, pro-rated fee, independent set of awards based on team and speaker rankings after 6 debates
- 5 championship awards and appropriate other ranked awards (e.g., 2nd-20th places, based on entries), including top undergraduate teams, top community college teams, top graduate/professional school teams, top novice team [first year in college-level debating], and top new team [first year in debate, speech or like competition at any level]
- Judges will assign a team point score for ranking team performances and tie-breaking; judges will assign independent speaker scores for debater speaker awards
- Judges will receive a comprehensive event rubric integrating format guidelines, educational and professional communication standards
- Open adjudication in all debates
- Selective format adjustments, listed in the formal invitation – e.g., the tournament will use the standard BP format with some modifications, including permitted argumentative heckling

If there is sufficient interest, the tournament will offer Title IX and Diversity Training for prospective equity officers and tournament managers at other competitions, led by the college's Chief Civil Right Officer and Assistant VP for Diversity and Inclusion.

The tournament will have the usual Claremont event features and amenities – rigorous motions, catered food and beverages available for guests throughout each day, door prizes, an aromatherapy buffet, on-time schedule, and a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere.

In addition to this event, the Debate Union will host a college championship in the Public Debate Program format in 2018. Awaiting facilities for that event announcement too. Invitation, rules, and judging rubric will be available asap. College students are also welcome to participate in the Debate Union's Conference on Electoral Reform (academic conference with competitive awards for undergraduate papers, multimedia presentations, and panel presentations). Invitation forthcoming.