



○ Who We Are

- The John R. Park Debate Society (the speech and debate team) is sponsored by the Department of Communication and has been a campus organization since 1869.
- In 2017, the John R. Park Debate Society won the National Parliamentary Debate Association's Season-Long National Championship.
- In 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 the team finished in the top 10 at the National Parliamentary Debate Association National Championships.
- Utah's Invitational Tournament, the Great Salt Lake Invitational, is one of the oldest and most distinguished tournaments in the Western United States.

○ What We Do

➤ *Competition*

- Lincoln-Douglas Debate – We are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the National Forensics Association in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
- British Parliamentary Debate – We are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the United States Universities Debate Association (USUDA).
- Individual Events – We are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the National Forensics Association (NFA).

➤ *Public Events*

- Public Debates - Public debates are where intercollegiate debate started. We host a public debate each semester. Past debates have focused on locally relevant public issues, i.e. guns on campus, Utah liquor laws and public safety, immigration, and nuclear waste storage.
- Election Debates & Forums – Part of our public debate programming is done in partnership with the Alliance for a Better Utah, including an ongoing legislative debate series.

➤ *High School Outreach*

- Volunteer Coaching - Our students provide nearly 1,000 hours of support each year for local teams by judging at local tournaments and offering volunteer coaching for teams with limited resources.
- High School Tournament - Utah Forensics hosts the Beehive Bonanza. This tournament hosts teams from throughout Utah and around the country. Scholarships are awarded to top competitors.

○ Ways to Join (Choose one):

- Email: Contact the Director of Forensics, Dr. Michael Middleton (m.middleton@utah.edu).
- Enroll in Forensics Practicum: Enroll in COMM 3270 (fall) or COMM 4270 (spring) which runs concurrently with weekly team practice. These courses often fulfill Upper-Division CW and/or CEL credit requirements. See the most current schedule of classes for confirmation.
- Attend Practice: Practices are open to all students enrolled at the University. We meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00pm until 9:00pm in the Utah Forensics Squad Room, LNCO 2890.



○ **Reasons to Join:**

➤ ***Research & Writing Skills***

- Speech & Debate teaches students to develop and support sound claims, as well as to hone critical reasoning skills.
- Speech & Debate teaches students to develop and deliver their ideas and arguments in concise ways.
- Speech & Debate teaches students effective research practices.
- Speech & Debate teaches students to “think on their feet” and to present their ideas with confidence.

➤ ***Organizational Skills***

- Speech & Debate teaches students to organize large quantities of information for effective retrieval and use.
- Speech & Debate teaches students effective organizational skills through opportunities to judge and help administrate tournaments.
- Speech & Debate teaches students to organize effectively team efforts to maximize team productivity.

➤ ***Relationships***

- Speech & Debate offers an opportunity to develop close advising relationships with faculty and instructors in the Department of Communication.
- Speech & Debate offers an opportunity to travel and develop relationships with students at other campuses in the state and nation.
- Speech & Debate fosters a sense of camaraderie among teammates that is rare in most college settings.

Fall 2020 Competition Schedule

DATES	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION
Aug 14-16	Fall Retreat	SLC, UT
Sept 25-26	Northwest College	Online
Oct 16-18	Univ of Central Missouri	Online
Oct 16-18	Hart House IV	Online
Nov 6-8	University of Pacific	Online
Nov 20-21	Cambridge IV	Online
Dec 4-6	PSCFA (Mandatory)	Online