



MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

PROMOTING SUCCESS ON THE COURT, ON THE FIELD, ON STAGE
AND EVERYWHERE ELSE UNDER THE BIG SKY SINCE 1921.

September 2025

**TO: MHSA SPEECH AND DRAMA COACHES
MHSA MEMBER SCHOOL ACTIVITY DIRECTORS**

FROM: AMY BARTELS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

RE: MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FOR THE 2024-2025 SEASON

Welcome to another year of MHSA Speech and Drama. I am the MHSA liaison to your speech, drama and debate programs. My email address is abartels@mhsa.org

Attached please find materials to assist you in the speech and drama season.

- The Tournament Schedule is attached and also can be found by clicking on this [2025-2026- Link](#). If the tournament does NOT appear in **BOLD**, the MHSA office has **not** received written confirmation of the event. The events which are NOT confirmed will be removed from the schedule prior to the October mailing if we do not receive notice from the host school.
- A Member School Participation List is attached. This list reflects the division alignments and includes those programs for which the MHSA office has received dues for the CURRENT school year. Schools that have not paid dues for an activity are not eligible for sanctioned MHSA competition (including regular season invitational tournaments). Clicking on this link [2025-2026 Speech and Drama List](#) – update in progress
- To access this current year's MHSA Forensics Handbook [2025-2026 MHSA/MFEA Handbook - Click Here](#)
- . The Forensics Handbook will only be provided electronically and will be posted on the MHSA website.
- Please take the time to review the 2025 - 2026 Proposed Topics and Resolutions. See attachment for information and ballot Please. Use the attached sheet to vote and return it to abartels@mhsa.org no later than Tuesday, October 1, 2025.
- To assist the MFEA with their membership data, we are including the link to the MFEA registration letter for 2025-26 Click the [2025-2026 MFEA Membership Dues Registration Letter](#) Link to access the registration form. Inquiries should be directed to Becky Nay, MFEA Treasurer, at Huntley Project High School [rnay@huntley.k12.mt.us].

Tournament Registration - In order to facilitate communication and help those that wish to run tournaments using Tabroom.com software, a tournament has been created called the "Montana 25 26 Standard Tournament". We encourage every school to register for this tournament, as well as take a moment to update their contact information. We will be using this tournament to get updated contact information so updates that need to be released to everyone can be disseminated as quickly as possible. Those that wish to run a tournament on Tabroom.com can also clone this tournament and avoid having to manually input all their settings.

Topic information is available by viewing the Speech and Drama webpage at our website www.mhsa.org.

The Legislative debate topics are posted at www.mhsa.org. Listed below are the topics.



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1st Legislative Debate Topics:

Domestic: Indigenous Peoples
Foreign: Diplomacy

2nd Legislative Debate Topics:

Domestic: Campaign Finance
Foreign: Trade & Labor Standards

3rd Legislative Debate Topics (Until End of Season):

Domestic: Threatened Biomes
Foreign: Weapons Proliferation

The Extemp topics will be available electronically in monthly memos or by emailing abartels@mhsa.org. The NFHS has asked us not to post the topics on our website because some states release the topics weekly.

The Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum debate topics will be available on the NSDA site which is linked through the MHSA website. Beginning of Season- Nov 16th: Resolved: In the United States criminal justice system, plea bargaining is just.

- Nov 17- Dec. 31th: To be released Oct. 1
- Jan. 1- End of Season: To be released Dec. 1

Public Forum debate topic Beginning of Season- Nov. 15: Resolved: The United Kingdom should rejoin the European Union.

- Nov 16- Dec. 20th: To be released Oct. 1
- Jan. 1- Feb. 1st: To be released Dec. 1
- Feb. 2- End of Season (National Qualifiers): To be released Jan. 1

Policy Debate topic for 2025-2026 is All Season: Resolved: The United States federal government should significantly increase its exploration and/or development of the Arctic.

2025-26 Topic Ballot forms are provided by the NFHS for coaches to vote on for the next season. Please use the attached sheet to vote and return it to abartels@mhsa.org no later than Tuesday, October 1, 2025.

Please be advised of the following:

- The NFHS has numerous resources available on the National Federation website. The website is www.nfhs.org. Use the link to "Activities and Sports" on the top banner of the page to navigate to Speech, Debate and Theatre Resources.
- Ballots are posted on the MHSA website at www.mhsa.org.

If you have any questions or concerns about the information in this email, please feel free to contact the MHSA office.

Attachments/Links Tournament Schedule/List of Participating Schools - Link Included
2025-2026 Forensics Booklet – Link Included
2024-2025 Debate Topic Selection Ballot and Information – Attached
MFEA registration letter - Link Included