**DENNIS WHITE**

**PARLIAMENTARY-LIMITED DEBATE INVITATIONAL**

We’re looking to try something new. I promise, it’ll be fun.

Arkansas State University has a proud history of excellence in competitive debate; one I am honored to have been a part of as a student and one that I am now honored to be a part of as faculty. Former A-State Debate Team members I’ve spoken with consistently cite participation in Parliamentary Debate as one of the most academically and socially valuable choices they made during their college career.

I agree completely. So, we’re doing it.

**Event Limitations, Schedule, & Awards**

* Up to 8 teams will be invited to compete
* Each school may nominate 2 teams (see below)
* 3 preliminary rounds on Friday
* Final round on Saturday
* Participants may also compete in PF or IPDA, but all other events conflict with Parli
* Awards for top speakers, as well as top non-advancing teams
* Awards for Finalist, Champion, and the Championship Traveling Trophy

**Eligibility & Nomination**

* Be a JR or SR attending school in Arkansas, or…
* Be a SO with an early graduation date
* Have had a minimum of 1 year debate experience
* Be nominated by a Coach, Teacher, or Administrator
* Be able to attend the tournament
* **To nominate a team, E-Mail** [**mgray@astate.edu**](mailto:mgray@astate.edu) **the following information (use “PL17 Nomination” in the title, please):**
  + **Team Name & Status (JR, SR, etc.)**
  + **General Debate Experience**
  + **Noteworthy Debate / Forensics Awards**
  + **Plans, if any, for attending college**
* Please submit nominations by February 13th
* Contact me with any questions

**Parli-Limited Format Basics**

Two-on-two debate between an Affirmative (Government) team and a Negative (Opposition) team

* A (single) new resolution is provided for each round
* 25 minutes of prep/walk time
* Affirmative has the Burden of Proof/Rejoinder
* Negative has the Burden of Rejoinder
* Questions in the form of Points of Information

General information about Parli debate can be found at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_debate#British_Parliamentary_debate>

Some of what Parliamentary Debate was intended to “be” has changed over the years. The Parli-Limited event seeks to provide for competitors a debate space that encourages both topic-specific argumentation & meta-debate, while remaining highly-focused on elements of individual charisma and team persuasion technique. To help facilitate this environment, the judging pool for Parli-Limited will be A-State Debate Team staff and former team members.

**Speech/Prep times, positions, and responsibilities**

25 MINUTES PREP; INCLUDES WALKING TIME

**5 minute Prime Minister constructive (PMC):**

Interprets the resolution; establishes affirmative criteria; presents the affirmative case

**7 minute Leader of Opposition constructive (LOC):**

Responds to PM; presents the negative case

**7 minute Member of Government constructive (MG):**

Responds to LO; pulls across PM arguments; explains why specific arguments are winning; foreshadows PMR

**6 minute Member of Opposition constructive (MO):**

Responds to MG; pulls across LO arguments; explains why specific arguments are winning; foreshadows LOR

**4 minute Leader of Opposition rebuttal (LOR):**

No new arguments; pulls across MO arguments; summary & impact analysis; clearly articulates voters

**5 minute Prime Minister rebuttal (PMR):**

No new arguments; responds to MO arguments; summary & impact analysis; clearly articulates voters

**Important Terms**

**Affirmative**- the side that advocates change through the adoption of the resolution. The Affirmative must present a reasonable interpretation of the resolution through an adequate definition of terms and/or operationally define the resolution in the Aff. plan. The affirmative must overcome the presumption for the status quo with a prima facie case.

**Negative**- the side that opposes the adoption of the resolution. The Negative must defend the status quo or the status quo with modifications (repairs) or counterplan in opposition to the Aff.

**Burden of proof**- the obligation of he or she who asserts to prove their points. The burden of the Aff. team to overcome the presumption for the status quo and so establish a prima facie case. Both sides have the burden of rejoinder meaning they must answer the relevant arguments of their opponents to keep the debate progressing.

**Protected time**- the first and last minute of each constructive speech is protected time; during this time, opponents may not as points of information. If an opponent requests a POI during protected time, the speaker should respond, “I am in protected time.” All rebuttal speeches are considered protected time.

**POI**- Point of Information; a question from the opposing team, usually requested by raising the hand and/or saying, “On that point!” When a POI is requested, the speaker may allow his or her opponent to ask the question, suspend the question until the end of the current point, or simply reply, “Not at this time.” The clock does not stop for these questions, so they should be kept brief.

**Point of Order**- used only during rebuttal speeches to protect against new arguments/offense. If a competitor believes a new argument has been made, he or she may say, “Point of Order, please stop the clock.” At that time, the debate clock will stop; this delay should last less than 1 minute. The Judge will ask the objector to clearly and specifically identify the new argument & will allow opponents to respond before responding. The most common response is: “I will take it under consideration;” however, a judge may choose to say, “Point well taken” or “Point not well taken,” as well.

Other common terms and definitions can be found here: <http://debate.uvm.edu/terminology.html>

**Example Resolutions**

The USFG should substantially change its system of health care.

Housing should be a basic human right.

THB that the internet of things will do more harm than good.

TH would substantially change its political philosophy toward Colombia.

**Q&A About Parli-Limited**

Q: What about voting issues and reasons for decision?

A: Generally, if you do not claim it as a voting issue, it cannot be a reason for decision. However, in “muddled” or “close” rounds, it may be necessary for judges to look beyond rebuttal speeches and voters for their RFD.

Q: What about interpreting the resolution?

A: Parli-Limited judges will default to Trichotomy, unless debaters provide a compelling reason to reject or ignore the theory. Information about Tricot theory can be found here: <https://noobdebates.wordpress.com/2013/10/06/trichotomy-in-parliamentary-debate-fact-value-policy/>

Q: What about speed or “spreading?”

A: Parli-Limited judges will be able to flow your speech. However, PL is highly-focused on team charisma, technique, & argumentation. Because of this, we recommend that debaters make a real effort to limit their rate of speech somewhere between “conversational tone” and “moderately fast.” This is not IPDA. This is not Policy. PL is somewhere “in-between.” Competitors are expected to respect that philosophy.

\*\*\*Additional information will be made available to teams upon request. The A-State Debate Team will provide at least 1 video example of Parli-Limited to schools in January, 2017.

\*\*\*Feel free to contact Michael J Gray at [mgray@astate.edu](mailto:mgray@astate.edu) with any questions.