

Torrance High School Speech & Debate Team FAQs

What Does The Speech & Debate Team Do?

- The speech and debate team competes in local and state-level speech and debate tournaments.
- There are 3 styles of debate and about 10 different speech events to choose from.

When are Speech & Debate Tournaments?

- Our tournaments are on Saturdays, but not every Saturday.
- Students must compete at 5 tournaments during the regular season (September-March).
- Students may pick and choose which tournaments to attend so that they can work around their personal schedules, as long as they meet the 5-tournament requirement.

Is The Speech & Debate Team A Class?

- Yes, students are enrolled in "Forensics Workshop".
- Students earn elective credit.

If I Don't Do Well At Tournaments, Will I Fail The Class?

- No, while you earn a large part of your class credit by competing at tournaments, you won't be penalized if you have a bad day.
- We focus on the willingness to learn and grow.

When and Where Does the Speech & Debate Team Meet?

- We meet during zero period M-F in room A 232.

Why Should I Join The Speech & Debate Team?

- It's challenging and fun!
- You'll make life-long friends and become more confident!
- You'll learn A LOT!

How Do I Tryout for The Team?

- *There aren't tryouts, but there are still some requirements that you need to meet.*
 - 2.0 Grade Point Average
 - Good Citizenship
 - "A" or "B" in English
 - Application
 - Submit Signed Student & Parent Contracts
 - Submit A Teacher Recommendation Form & A Grade Check

Application Packets are due Friday, May 15, 2020

**Torrance High Speech & Debate Team 2020-2021 Application
Personal Information Sheet**

Please fill out this application completely. Use black or blue ink and print clearly. Check for accuracy before turning in your application packet.

Name_____Grade in the fall_____

Home Address (Please include apt/unit, if applicable and zip code)

Cell phone (please include area code)_____

Do you text? (indicate yes or no) _____

Home phone (please include area code)_____

Birthdate (month/day/year) _____

Please circle the school you are presently attending: Torrance Madrona Hull

Torrance High Students, write your 3rd period teacher's names on the line provided.

3rd period teacher

Middle school students, please write the name of your English/Language Arts teacher on the line provided.

ELA Teacher

List other activities you're doing next year at school and elsewhere (church, scouting, community, etc.)

Student's Name_____

Student Contract
Torrance High Speech & Debate Team 2020-2021

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU SIGN.

I understand that as a member of the T.H.S. speech & debate team that I am making a commitment to an academically rigorous competitive program.

This commitment includes:

- Enrolling in and attending zero period (7:00 a.m.) Forensics Workshop class Monday-Friday
- Being on-time to class
- Competing in five (5) all-day tournaments during the season
- Completing assignments, like writing speeches and debate cases
- Attending team building socials
- Participating in fundraisers for the team
- I know that speech & debate will require me to spend some of my personal time preparing for tournaments.
 - This preparation includes writing, researching, memorizing, and rehearsing.

If I am accepted, I understand my responsibilities as a member of the T.H.S. speech & debate team and I will represent our team with dignity and respect for my teammates, my fellow competitors, coaches, and school.

I understand that my failure to meet these commitments will affect my grade in Forensics Workshop and may make me ineligible for the team in the future.

Student Signature _____ Date _____
Student's Name _____

**Parent Contract
Torrance High Speech & Debate Team 2020-2021**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU SIGN.

I have read the student contract and I know what is expected of my son/daughter if he/she is accepted as a member of the Torrance High School speech & debate team. In addition, I also understand that:

- I, or my representative, must judge at three (3) tournaments during the speech & debate season. (Judges may be anyone over 18 with command of the English language).
 - Students whose judges do not show up to judge for their selected tournaments will be assessed a \$125.00 fee to cover the cost of hiring a judge.
 - As emergencies arise, it is imperative that coaching staff is informed when a judge cannot make it; every effort should be made to find a replacement.
- My child and I need to contribute the appropriate bus usage "donation" to the district or submit a letter stating financial hardship via the THS business office.
 - Forms will be available on the THS website as part of the athletic clearance packet (team members DO NOT need a physical exam)
 - Families with financial hardship may submit a letter to the business stating their hardship.
 - Transportation payments must be made in the ASB office and the receipt submitted to Mrs. Sluyter. Receipts will be returned.
- My student will be assessed \$230.00 in dues for the season to offset team competition costs.
 - These dues are payable in one lump sum on the first day of the fall semester, or in two payments of \$115.00 due on the first day of the fall semester and the first day of the spring semester.
 - Dues payments must be made in the ASB office and the receipt submitted to Mrs. Sluyter. Receipts will be returned.
 - Students with financial hardship may request fundraising opportunities.

Parent's Name _____ Parent's Email Address _____

Parent Signature

Date

Students, please provide your teacher with an envelope so that he or she can place your recommendation inside and seal it. Turn in the envelope with all other paperwork.

Student's Name _____

Teacher Recommendation Form for Torrance High Speech & Debate 2020-2021

Teachers, thanks for helping us out! Please rank the student in each area by circling the appropriate number. (5 = outstanding, 4 = very good, 3 = average, 2 = below average, 1 = needs improvement)

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| Positive Attitude | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Unobserved |
| Motivation | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Unobserved |
| Perseverance | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Unobserved |
| Follow-through | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Unobserved |
| Friendliness | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Unobserved |
| Positive Peer Relationships | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Unobserved |
| Writing Ability | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Unobserved |
| Reading Ability | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Unobserved |
| Speaking Ability | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Unobserved |

What about this student impresses you most? Is there anything that concerns you?

Please place this completed form in the envelope that the student has provided and seal it. Sign the back of the envelope over the closure. The student will hand-carry the form to room A232 or the principal's office.

Teacher's Name

Subject

Teacher's Signature

Date

**Torrance Speech & Debate
Application Packet Checklist
2020-2021**

1. Please turn in all of the items below *at the same time*. Be sure to bind everything together with a staple or clip.
2. Write your first and last name at the top of each page.
3. Application packets may be turned into the Torrance High School principal's office or room A232.
4. Applications are due on or before Monday, April 13, 2020.. Decisions will be made and the team roster will be posted on Monday, April 20, 2020 by 4:00 PM at Hull (front office), Madrona (front office), and Torrance (ASB).

Use this checklist to help you. You do not need to turn in this page.

| Application Packet Item | Check When Complete |
|---|----------------------------|
| Completed Personal Information Sheet | |
| Read and Signed Student Contract | |
| Read and Signed Parent Contract | |
| Included Teacher Recommendation Form in A Sealed and Signed Envelope | |
| Included A Copy of Most Recent Report Card | |
| All Packet Items Have Been Bound Together With A Staple Or Clip | |
| Application Packet Has Been Turned In on Or Before May 15, 2020 to The THS Principal's Office or to Room A232 or sent to sluyter.lesley@tusd.org | |

