

Barkley Forum Guidelines

November 2010 revision

Now that we are Members (hold a Chair) of the Barkley Forum, we are guaranteed entries to the contest. This National-level tournament is selective and allows 100 students to enter and compete in each of six categories: Extemp, Oratory, Dramatic Interp, Humorous Interp, Duo Interp, and Poetry/Prose (you must do both – rotate by rounds). They also offer the debate events: Congress, PFD, LD, and Policy.

Their rules: *Since we will be offering 6 Speech Events instead of 5, each Member school may have up to 16 Speech entries, with no more than 4 entries in any one event. You are also guaranteed entry for 2 policy debate teams, 2 LDers, 4 Public Forum teams, and 4 Congress entries.*

So, we can take 16 entries in Speech plus Congress and Debate entries as indicated above. Note that individuals can double in Speech events if they like but in no others. I reserve the right to decide whether students going to Barkley Forum go in one or two events; this will be determined by my judgment of whether or not students have one or two legitimately competitive events ready for the national circuit.

Student costs vary each year, but it's a good bet that the costs will not exceed \$150; the team will subsidize the rest. It's a fun trip and a good warm-up for Nationals as many of the "big time" schools attend, plus a good way to get out of Danville in the dead of winter.

Here's how I'll decide who goes.

- Each returning member of the team is eligible to go. First-year members are not unless chosen as one of the coach's wild card picks.
- You earn points toward going doing the following:

March Madness tournament (last year) break out of prelims (not finals): 1 point

March Madness tournament (last year) finalist (any place): 2 points

Nationals competitor (you competed): 3 points

First place at a fall tournament in a Barkley event

(DI, Duo, Ext, HI, OO, Prose, Poetry, Congress, PFD, Storytelling – which can work as HI): 3 points

Finals at a fall tournament in a Barkley event: 2 points

Finals (any place) at a fall tournament in a non-Barkley event: 1 point

Semis or quarters at a fall tournament in any event: 1 point (if advance to next, those points too)

Second-year team member: 1 point

Third-year team member: 2 points

Fourth-year team member: 3 points

This should reward our strongest students and especially our strongest in the Barkley events and allow them to go. You will notice that the formula is weighted toward how you compete this year. I will turn in a preliminary entry in December and finalize the entry after Lafayette. Individual parts of Swing tournaments will count as separate contests.

I only plan to take entries in Speech this year. In other years, if we have students who want to go in Congress or PFD they should see me ASAP so I may plan. I do not plan to take students who are competing in these events unless they have proven successful records in these events.

I also reserve the right to pick **two wild-card entries** to take, regardless of the formula above. This is my privilege as the head coach, and I will use it however I wish – to take #15/16 in the formula or someone else. This will allow me to enter emerging great talent, a new script I think has great promise, or just someone I think needs to go for whatever reason. Our guidelines listed here will choose the other spots.