



EX NIHILO

SPEECH AND DEBATE

LEAGUE

www.StoaUSA.org

Stoa is a national Junior High and High School Speech and Debate League serving the needs of privately educated Christian Homeschooling families.

Stoa Vision Statement:

To develop world-class communicators who speak boldly and change the world for Christ.

COST

Ex Nihilo club membership:

\$100 for the first student, \$50 for the second, and \$25 each for the third and fourth students, with a maximum family annual fee of \$175 per family. Club fees are due by Oct 1st.

Stoa membership:

\$75 per family. Cost increases to \$95 after December 31, 2023

Tournament entry fees:

Fees vary per tournament, typically ranging from \$15-\$55 per entered event, per student.

CONTACT

- 📍 Meeting location:
La Mesa, CA 91942
Email for updated location address
- ✉ info@nihilo.club
- 🌐 www.nihilo.club



EXPECTATIONS

Ex Nihilo is an independent, non-profit, volunteer-run organization. Club meetings and tournaments require parent presence and participation in order to meet the needs of our student competitors, and are not a drop-off activity. Tournament participation requires a commitment by the parent to fulfill the judging requirements set by each tournament. Parent and community judges will receive annual Judge Orientation training, available at all tournaments. Club members and their families are expected to behave in a wholesome and winsome manner, thus representing themselves, their families, the club, and the Lord. Students should know and follow event rules and the Stoa league's Code of Conduct.

SCHEDULE

Weekly:

- Monday club meetings (Sept 11, 2023 - May 13, 2024)*
- 5:15-5:45pm: Pizza on the lawn
- 6:00-6:30: Announcements and Apologetics
- 6:30-7:40: Speech + Junior Track
- 7:45-9:15pm: Debate

*Club will not meet: Nov 20, Dec 18 & 25, Jan 1, Mar 25.

Tournament Schedule:

Tournament schedules vary from 1-day to 3-day, all-day events. Tournaments are posted throughout the year at: <https://stoausa.org/tournament-calendar/> Registration for upcoming competitions typically opens one month prior to event. Upcoming Southern California events which are currently posted include, but are not limited to:

- Nov 3-4, Harvest Hoedown, San Diego CA
- Nov 10-11, Veritas Veteran's Day Challenge, Newport Beach, CA
- Dec 7-8, Codename California Christmas Challenge, Redlands, CA
- Dec 9, Christmas Colloquium, Riverside CA
- Jan 4-6, Act of Valor, TBD Southern California
- Jan 14-20, The Desert Gem, Palm Desert CA
- TBD, Point Loma Classic, Point Loma CA*
- Apr 25-27, Last Act of Valor, San Diego, CA

*Point Loma Classic is our home tournament, hosted and operated by Ex Nihilo club parents and volunteers.

EX NIHILO HEAD COACHES

Speech Head Coach: Monique Hosmer

Debate Head Coach: Steve Hosmer

Platform lead coach: Andrew Weld

Team Policy lead coach: Josh Halfpap

Interp lead coach: Hillary Hefner

Lincoln Douglas lead coach: Ben Hodge

Extemp lead coach: Ben Hodge

Parliamentary lead coach: Steve Hosmer

Apologetics lead coach: Denny Lee

Junior lead coach: Jessica Halfpap

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. **There is one God eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30, 2 Corinthians 13:14)**
2. **Man is sinful and therefore separated from God, who is holy and perfect. (Isaiah 53:5-9, Romans 3:23, 1 Peter 1:15-16)**
3. **Jesus Christ paid the eternal penalties for our sin through His death on the cross (Luke 24:46, 1 Peter 2:21)**
4. **Jesus Christ also resurrected bodily and ascended into heaven and will return one day to fulfill His kingdom. (Matt 28:6, Rev 19:11)**
5. **Only through Jesus Christ and the grace of His provision of salvation, may we be saved from eternal punishment, enter into God's family and receive eternal life. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 6:23, Romans 8:11, 1 John 1:9)**
6. **The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible and authoritative Word of God and the truth for Christian faith and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, John 17:17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, Psalm 19:7-11, John 6:67-69)**

GLOSSARY OF FREQUENTLY-USED TERMS

Ballot – a sheet of paper on which judges give feedback and record evaluations for each competitor

Break – to make it past the preliminary rounds in a tournament; all rounds after prelims

Flowing – the term used for note taking during a debate round

Flowsheet – the notes taken during a debate round

Green Check Mark – the symbol awarded to speakers who rank in the top 40% in their category at a specific tournament, and debaters ranking in the top 38% in their event at a specific tournament. (Used to award NITOC eligibility.)

Individual Events (IE) – another name for speech events (usually used at a tournament)

Interpretative speech (Interp) – a category of speeches that creatively explores and develops the intellectual, emotional, and artistic embodiment of a piece of literature (theater of the mind) without using costumes, props and scenery

Impromptu speech (IMP) – in Impromptu speaking the speaker is given two (2) minutes to prepare a speech on a randomly drawn quotation or topic; the goal is to create a polished speaker who is able to give an original, spontaneously prepared speech within the room, using the selected topic as the central theme

Limited-preparation speech – an original speech, prepared on the spot; the student will pick three topics from an envelope, choose one, and return the other two; each speech should be a fresh, unique, original presentation which is developed from the chosen topic

National Open Tournament – a qualifying tournament that is open to any Stoa member (note that most, if not all, Stoa tournaments are national opens)

NITOC – the National Invitational Tournament of Champions which marks the end of the competitive season; in order to qualify for competition at NITOC, students must receive two green check marks in a specific category at prior tournaments

Outrounds – after preliminary rounds in a tournament, students ranked high enough in their events at that tournament, qualify to continue competing

Platform speech – a category of speeches that is researched and written by the student and is not literary in nature

Posting – the competition schedule posted prior to the beginning of each round of competition; it generally contains the name of the event, a list of speakers and their order, and the room number where the competition takes place

Qualifying tournament – an official tournament sanctioned by Stoa

Resolution – the topic of a particular debate

Round – a cycle/session within a tournament; early rounds are called preliminary (prelims); later rounds are called outrounds (debate), quarter-finals, semi-finals, or finals

Round Robin – a practice tournament

Tab – the people involved in calculating the results for the tournament (tabulation)

Wildcard Event – seasonal speech events that are specific for a particular tournament year; the 2022-2023 Wildcard individual event is "Interp in a Box"

SPEECH AND DEBATE SKILL-BUILDING

Interpret literature * Coordinate rehearsed presentation * Defend Christian theological concepts * Conduct research * Analyze data * Evaluate sources of information * Write summary briefs of information * Write a speeches * Deliver a memorized speech * Persuade an audience through platform speaking * Defend points of view under cross examination * Defend points of view with impromptu speeches * Weigh values using general knowledge * Weigh policy issues through a forensic process * Use evidence in speechwriting