



# EX NIHILO

SPEECH AND DEBATE  
2024-2025

## LEAGUE

[www.StoaUSA.org](http://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 a second student, and \$25 each for a third student, with a maximum family annual fee cap of \$175 per family. Club fees are due by Oct 1st.

### Stoa membership:

\$95 per family. Cost increases to \$125 after September 30, 2024

### Tournament entry fees:

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

## CONTACT



Meeting location:

The Chapel at Grossmont

5651 Water St, La Mesa, CA 91942



[info@nihilo.club](mailto:info@nihilo.club)



[www.nihilo.club](http://www.nihilo.club)



## EXPECTATIONS

Ex Nihilo is an independent, non-profit, volunteer-run organization. Parental participation and on-site presence are required at all Ex Nihilo weekly club meetings and Stoa sponsored tournaments. Speech and debate is not a drop off activity. Student participation at tournaments requires a commitment from the parents to judge as many rounds as specified for each tournament. Judge Orientation training for parents and community judges is available at every tournament, and aspects of judging at tournaments will be covered at club meetings. Students should know and follow event rules and the Stoa league's Code of Conduct. Club members and their families are expected to behave in a wholesome and winsome manner, thus representing themselves, their families, and the club, for God's own glory.

## SCHEDULE

### Weekly:

Monday club meetings (Sept 9, 2024 - May 12, 2025)\*

5:15-5:45pm: Dinner (optional)

6:00-6:30: Announcements and Apologetics

6:30-7:40: Speech + Junior Track

7:15-9:15pm: Debate (Team Policy Debate begins at 7:15, Lincoln Douglas Debate begins at 7:45, Parliamentary Debate by request and availability)

\*Club will not meet: Nov 25, Dec 16, 23, and 30, and Apr 14.

### 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:

Oct 11, The Prolific Prologue, Redlands, CA

Nov 11, Veritas Veteran's Day Challenge, Newport Beach, CA

TBD Dec, Christmas Colloquium, Riverside, CA

Jan 15-18, The Desert Gem, Palm Desert CA

Feb 19-21, Act of Valor, Redlands, CA

TBD, Point Loma Classic, Point Loma 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

Platform lead coach: Andrew Weld  
Interp lead coach: Hillary Hefner  
Extemp lead coach: Ben Hodge  
Apologetics lead coach: Denny Lee

### Debate Head Coach: Steve Hosmer

Team Policy lead coach: Josh Halfpap  
Lincoln Douglas lead coach: Ben Hodge  
Parliamentary lead coach: Steve Hosmer

## 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