

The First Annual Trojan Parliamentary Debates  
*British Parliamentary Debate Tournament*  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA  
Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013



Dear debate coaches/club presidents,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to the First Annual Trojan Parliamentary Debates, to be held at the University of Southern California in downtown Los Angeles from March 29-31, 2013. We are pleased to offer 6 rounds of British Parliamentary debate as well as some Friday night debate games and a Saturday night social. We will also break to semis or finals, as appropriate, and include a novice final if the numbers warrant one.

This deadline for registration will be Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are open to comments and suggestions as we are dedicated to ensuring that our first tournament leaves you all itching to return for more in 2014!

Sincerely,  
Dafne Gokcen and Daniel Fletcher  
Co-Tournament Directors

## Tournament Details

The Trojan Parliamentary Debate Club is now a whole year old, and we are very excited to be preparing for our first full tournament. Although we are a young, student-run club, we are dedicated to running a quality tournament. If you have any questions or comments about the details of this tournament, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[NOTE: For more information on (1) our tournament-running qualifications and (2) the inspiration for “debate games”, please consult <http://cusid.ca/community/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=16216> for details about the tournament Dafne once ran.]

## Registration and Fees

The fee for this tournament will be **\$70/team and \$20/judge**. Judging requirements will be **N-1**, and there will be a **\$120 fee for uncovered judges**. Please note that because we are such a new club, the depth of our judging pool is very shallow. Therefore, we kindly ask that you **actually bring quality judges and not opt to just pay the fee**. In addition, if you know of anyone who might be interested in judging, please direct them to us. We want to make sure there will be quality judging at this tournament.

To register, please e-mail [trojanparlidebate@gmail.com](mailto:trojanparlidebate@gmail.com) with the following details by March 22:

- Number of teams, names of debaters and novice status
- Names of judges as well as a brief bio indicating whether the judges are qualified to chair rounds
- Any dietary restrictions
- Number of people coming for “Friday night debate games”

## The Schedule

### Friday night

Since we recognize that class and work can hinder people's abilities to arrive on Friday, we have decided to make Friday an optional night of "debate games." The actual events we host will be based on registration and interest but some options are:

**Style rounds** (in 2-on-2 debate format) - these are debate rounds on silly topics. They are really, really fun.

**5-minute round** (copyright MIT) - speeches are no more than 1 minute and POIs must be 3 words or less. Fantastic!

**Family Feud** - debaters will be put in a "family." One by one, each family member must "buzz in" to give an argument for or against a given motion. A panel of judges assesses the arguments.

**Public speaking** - 3-minute speeches on a given topic with the goal of being entertaining

...we have lots more ideas and we'll decide which events to run based on registration and interest!

The goal of these games is to get people interested in the lighter side of debate, and gauge interest for a potential "Debating Death Trudge" here in California. **You do not need to have a partner for the games** - we will be using magic wand style, so you will be paired with fun strangers!

### Saturday and Sunday

We will be offering 6 in-rounds of debate followed by breaks to semis and novice finals, if appropriate, and finals.

In addition, we will provide breakfast and lunch on Saturday as well as brunch on Sunday.

## The Schedule

### **Friday, March 29**

4-9PM (times up for negotiation) - Debate Games - OPTIONAL EVENT

### **Saturday, March 30**

8AM - Breakfast (provided)

9AM - Announcements and Round 1

11AM - Round 2

1PM - Lunch (provided)

2PM - Round 3

4PM - Round 4

Night - social at a local venue (details TBA)

### **Sunday, March 31**

9AM - Round 5

11AM - Brunch (provided)

Noon - Round 6

2PM - Semis and Novice Finals (if appropriate)

4PM - Finals

6PM - Awards and Goodbyes!

## Awards

We will be providing awards to all breaking teams as well as the top 3 speakers and the top novice team and speaker.

A novice is anyone in their first year of College debate. Please contact us if you have any questions about eligibility.

We are currently investigating a number of prize options. The actual prizes given will be based on registration numbers (since that will affect what we can afford). We are committed to having excellent prizes, regardless of the budget.

## Travel Information

The University of Southern California is easily accessible from a number of different modes of transportation.

**Flights:** the best airport to come to is LAX, though you can find your way downtown from any of LA's airports. If you are renting a car at the airport, it is a 20-minute drive to campus, depending on traffic. Please note that the carpool lanes on the I-110 Northbound now require a transponder from Metro. You can ask at the rental car location if they provide this. Otherwise, you may get stuck in bad traffic depending on the day/time of your arrival. There are also many shuttle buses from the airport, including Super Shuttle which is \$16/person to USC. For the more adventurous, transit takes about 1 hour from LAX to USC and you get the experience of boarding a bus on a freeway!

**Driving directions:** USC is located at the confluence of the I-110 and the I-10 freeways, and is easily accessible from every direction by car. From the I-10, exit at Hoover and drive south. From the I-110, exit at Exposition or Adams and head west. **Please note that the carpool lanes on both the 10 east of downtown and the 110 south of downtown now require a transponder** – visit your local AAA or metro.net for more details about how to get one!!

**Transit directions (*yes, it is possible!*):** Thanks to Measure R, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Agency (Metro) recently opened the new Expo light rail

line right next to USC. As a result, it is now even easier to get to USC by public transit! Please let us know if you would like more information about transit directions.

**Amtrak/Greyhound:** Come into Union Station. Take the Metro Red Line to 7<sup>th</sup> Street/Metro Center station. Transfer to the Expo line (be careful – the Metro Blue Line boards on the same platform – make sure your train says Culver City!) Get off at Jefferson/USC or USC/Expo Park and you'll be at our school!

### *A note on driving...*

USC is fortunate enough to have an abundance of transit options. We also have many food and entertainment options within walking distance. Therefore, it is not necessary to rent a car if you are not driving to the tournament. I know this is LA, and the stereotypes do have some basis. But we're very lucky to be right next to downtown!

## Accommodations

We are currently looking into hotel deals. The closest hotels to campus are the Radisson (<http://www.radisson.com/los-angeles-hotel-ca-90007/cafiguer>) and the Vagabond Inn (<http://www.vagabondinn.com/Hotels/Los-Angeles-at-USC-CA/Overview/307>). Both are within 5 minutes walking distance to campus. There are also a number of options downtown which would be easily accessible by transit.

We can't offer much in the way of crash space. However, if you have nowhere else to stay, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you. Crash will be provided if you can prove your debate program is as poor as ours is.

## Final Thoughts (aka Why YOU should come!)

We are putting a lot of work and effort into making this a high quality tournament. We firmly believe in both the social and academic sides of debate, and we want to run a tournament that embraces both. More details about hotel deals and the social will emerge as we follow up with local businesses. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns we will be happy to help.

This is an exciting coming-of-age event for our club and we hope you'll be a part of it!  
Again, if you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to welcoming you all to our campus in March!

Sincerely,

Dafne Gokcen and Daniel Fletcher  
Co-Tournament Directors  
[trojanparlidebate@gmail.com](mailto:trojanparlidebate@gmail.com)