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Crowe Warken Debates Hosted by the US Naval Academy

Annapolis, MD – The United States Naval Academy hosted the Crowe Warken Debates the weekend of January 17-19, 2026. The tournament was attended by 61 teams across the Junior Varsity, Novice, and Open divisions.

Debaters from across the country were asked to debate both sides of the season-long resolution about labor policy. The full wording of the topic is “Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially strengthen collective bargaining rights for workers in the United States.”

Students participating in the tournament debate half of their preliminary debates in favor of the resolution and half of their preliminary debates in opposition to the resolution.

At the conclusion of the preliminary debates, the tournament seeded teams in all divisions based on their win-loss record and speaker points. Elimination debates were single elimination for the top 6 teams in Junior Varsity, 10 teams in Novice, and 15 teams in Open.

The Junior Varsity division showcases students competing in their first two academic years of intercollegiate debate beyond the novice level.

In the Junior Varsity quarterfinals debate, teams from George Mason University, the University of Kentucky, and New York University advance over teams from George Mason University and Binghamton University. George Mason University advanced one of their teams over the other and the University of Kentucky defeated New York University in the semifinals.

In the final round, Autumn O'Connor and Emebet Neale from George Mason University were named the division champions after defeating the team from the University of Kentucky.

In the Novice division octafinals, teams from George Mason University, Liberty University, Binghamton University, Fairmont State University, and New York University advanced over teams from George Mason University, and Binghamton University.

Teams from Liberty University, Fairmont State University, and George Mason University were bested in the quarterfinals setting up one semifinals debate between George Mason University and Binghamton University and another semifinal debate between Liberty University and New York University.

The final round featured teams from Binghamton University and Liberty University. Advika Gakhare and Jason Guo from Binghamton University came out on top to win the Novice division.

In the Open division, teams from the University of Michigan, Emory University, Georgetown University, Michigan State University, George Mason University, Wake Forest University, Dartmouth College, the University of Minnesota, James Madison University, and the University of Kentucky reached the elimination debate.

A double octafinals round (Round of 32), an octafinals round (Round of 16), and a quarterfinals round (Round of 8), set up a semifinals debate featuring teams from the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Dartmouth College, and the University of Kentucky.

The teams from the University of Michigan and the University of Kentucky met in the final round where Conner Shih and Gautam Chamarth from the University of Michigan won.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the Junior Varsity division, Akhil Khadefrom from New York University was named top speaker. Gautam Chamarth from the University of Michigan was named top speaker in the Open division and Camila Rosa-Pérez Montes from George Mason University was top speaker in Novice.

The Crowe Warcken Debates are the first ADA tournament of the spring semester. The next ADA tournament will be the Arizona State Tournament.

About the American Debate Association

The American Debate Association began in 1985 as an intercollegiate debate association. It uses the resolution selected by the Cross Examination Debate Association and the National Debate Tournament. Currently they have 44 member schools. The ADA's mission is increasing participation, maintaining a balance between education and competition, and ensuring an equitable and fair activity for all programs, regardless of their size or experience.

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