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## **University of Texas Hosts Texas Open Tournament**

Austin, TX – The University of Texas hosted the Texas Open Tournament on the weekend of January 31-February 2, 2026. The tournament attended by 24 Novice teams and 24 Junior Varsity teams in the ADA-sanctioned 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 are single elimination for the top twelve teams in both divisions.

The Novice division features students who are in their first year of competitive debate. The Junior Varsity division showcases students competing in their first two academic years of intercollegiate debate beyond the novice level.

In the Junior Varsity division, teams from Trinity University, George Mason University, Wake Forest University, the University of Utah, the University of Texas, the United States Military Academy West Point, Liberty University, Binghamton University, California State University Long Beach, and California State University Northridge reached the elimination debates.

A hybrid team with one student from CSU Long Beach and one student from CSU Northridge, Mallory Johnson and Ellyana Thornton, won the division after defeating a team from the United States Military Academy West Point in the final round.

In the Novice division, teams from George Mason University, Southern Nazarene University, Indiana University, Boston College, Liberty University, Binghamton University, the University of Miami, James Madison University, and the United States Military Academy West Point reached the elimination debates.

Denzel Bell and Camila Rosa-Pérez Montes from George Mason University won the Novice division after defeating a team from Binghamton University in the final round.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the Junior Varsity division, Harper Lindsay from Wake Forest University was named top speaker. Rosa-Pérez Montes from George Mason University was named top speaker in the Novice division.

The Texas Open is the last tournament of the regular season. The next ADA tournament will be the ADA National Championship.

### **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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