10/24/2020 Seven students in attendance

This is a lot more work for experienced students - we are confused, we must help the novices and we must help our parents figure out the judging. The major problem with morale this year is that fear of the unknown has spread throughout the entire team, but overall, morale seems good.

Hopefully, it will be safe enough later so that we can be with our team at our school for tournaments, even if we are still competing remotely.

Too much down time at the tournaments. Lots of waiting around.

The actual debating didn't seem that different once you were competing, although the debates seemed a little watered down.

There has been a huge loss of culture. We can't meet with our teammates during the tournament and share ideas and suggestions as before. This is what I miss the most.

Better communication among teams during the tournament would take away some of that unsureness about the future and would improve morale. We suggest breakout rooms for individual teams during tournaments (we went to an invitational where we had our own breakout room, and it was really good).

In some cases, morale is up. On our team, a lot of the juniors and seniors aren't competing this year because of all the uncertainty so there are more freshmen and sophomores because they find it less intimidating

Why should someone join speech and debate now? You really learn how to improvise and pivot, and we may have to do this again (shift our lives to online) so it is good to know how to shift back and forth. Its less nerve- racking to record your speech than to have to deliver it in person, so it's a really good time for novices to start speech events.

The tournament ran a lot more on time than in person tournaments, and that was appreciated.

Several teams said to be sure to commend Mr. Corkery in Extemp Prep. He was amazing - there the whole time to answer questions, and he was very chill.

Judges seemed very disoriented. Whatever can be done to make it less stressful for the judges would be helpful. They shouldn't get all that information about judging for the first time on the day of the tournament. One competitor said some judges didn't even know what event they were judging. My mom said she had to get up way too early.

Rules didn't seem consistent. Several people on my team had trouble uploading their videos and some judges let them put the links in chat but other judges marked others as no shows. With all the uncertainty, it would be nice to know that the judge knew what was going on and was applying rules consistently.

At Nats and TOC, people were really concerned about stealing prep time on Wi-Fi. Judges in debate seem scared to call out a team when they are abusing the tech. Maybe there should be a time limit to find a card? Allow videos to be off more often when the internet connection is bad.

We would like to know that judges know that reading off articles on a computer is not allowed in Extemp. We know it's hard to police, but judges should at least be told to look for this so we will feel that things are fairer.

I find the question about league community a bit funny because I don't feel that there is a league community. This is something that goes beyond this season. I would recommend that we attend invitationals as league, rather than as individual schools. When you see people from your league at invitationals, you form closer relationships with them, and you bring that back to the league, and that helps everyone. So is there a way for the league to help support this and make it more of a community?   In some ways, being online has made it less of an us versus them, as teams are sharing more resources.

We need more advocate meetings with more participants, don't want to wait until the end of the year to find out that we've been doing something all year that we could have fixed. We should however wait until most teams have done to an invitational because then we will have more ideas.

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Creating a love of learning, a depth of understanding, and a strong sense of self.