Last year, the League of Women Voters Alameda (LWVA) entered into a partnership with the College of Alameda (COA) and Girls Inc. of the Island City to create The LWVA/COA Debate Scholarship Program (DSP). This program was created not only to expose young people to the education and advocacy mission of the historical League of Women Voters and to enhance the college’s impact on the community, but to offset the limited civics and government education in our school systems needed to prepare high school students to enter society as informed, critical thinkers able to participate in our democracy.

This year, to give more students the opportunity to enhance their public speaking and research skills, the DSP is putting on a Speech Tournament. The winner will receive a $1,000 scholarship and the runner up will get $500, plus the added bonus of a League of Women Voters reference on his/her resume for college admittance. In addition to the scholarships, all participating students will receive one unit of college credit from the Communication Department at COA.

The topic this year is: “Should the voting age be reduced to 16?” Students can choose their position on the topic and whether they want to argue for or against. While it is the policy of the LWVA/COA partnership that topics to be about issues related to the league and voting, the league does not hold a national position on the 16-year-old vote. However, the league did adopt a policy of accepting membership of 16 year olds in its general session last year.

Interested students from your school are invited to review the speech guidelines in this packet and submit a video of their speech along with their online application at http://tinyurl.com/jz1moe prior to the deadline on February 17, 2017. COA Communication Department students will use a standardized rubric to evaluate the speech videos and select the final participants for the Speech Tournament. Department Chair Professor Jennifer Fowler and Professor Shirley Brownfox will oversee the student evaluators through this process.

The top 10 scoring speeches will be invited to participate in the speech tournament on Saturday April 22, 2017 (time TBA). On the day of the tournament, there will be one preliminary round. The preliminary will determine the speakers that will compete in the final round for the scholarship. Judges (TBA) will include both education and civic community leaders. Professor Jennifer Fowler and Professor Shirley Brownfox will hold drop-in office hour sessions leading up the tournament for students that need help or practice.

Attached is a flyer outlining the timeline and logistics of this scholarship program. Please contact me at 510-593-9572 or alicefried89@gmail.com, if your school is interested in participating in this growing popular event and increasingly necessary event.

Sincerely,
Alice Fried, President, LWVA
Chair, LWVA Youth Outreach
FEB 17 2017: Student speech videos and applications due. Applications must be submitted at http://tinyurl.com/jztlmec


MAR 10 2017: Deadline for the candidates to accept their entry in the program.

MID MARCH - MID APRIL: There will be 2 mandatory practices at College of Alameda and optional drop in meetings in preparation for the tournament. Dates/times TBA.

APR 22 2017: Speech Tournament at College of Alameda. Time TBA, but most likely will be from approximately 10am - 2pm.
REQUIRED SPEECH STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

I. Attention Getter: Something that grabs the attention of the audience. Examples of this include startling statistics, stories, rhetorical questions, quotations, scenarios, etc.
II. Reason To Listen: Why should the audience listen to your speech? Make it personal to the group you are speaking to.
III. Credibility Statement: What personally connects you to this topic?
IV. Preview Main Points: State your thesis and preview what your three main points/arguments will be in the body of your speech.

BODY

I. Main Point 1: Statement of the first main point/argument.
   A. Sub-point: Idea of development or support for the first main point.
      1. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
      2. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
   B. Sub-point: More development or support.
      1. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
      2. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
   C. More development if needed.

Transition: Statement of movement that looks back at Main Point 1 (internal summary) and looks forward to Main Point 2 (preview).

II. Main Point 2: Statement of the second main point/argument.
   A. Sub-point: Idea of development or support for the second main point.
      1. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
      2. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
   B. Sub-point: More development or support.
      1. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
      2. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
   C. More development if needed.

Transition: Statement of movement that looks back at Main Point 2 (internal summary) and looks forward to Main Point 3 (preview).
SPEECH VIDEO GUIDELINES

Each applicant is required to submit a video of their persuasive speech with their application at http://tinyurl.com/jzttimec. Ten speakers will be selected to participate in the scholarship speech tournament.

You can use any program you want to record your video (i.e. YouTube, your smart phone camera application, etc.) and any site you want to upload your video (i.e. YouTube, Vimeo, etc). You must submit a URL of your speech video along with your application in order to be considered. Email College of Alameda Communication Professor Jennifer Fowler at jfowler@peralta.edu with questions about this process. Please follow the guidelines below to ensure proper submission of your speech video. Videos that do not follow the guidelines may be deemed ineligible for consideration.

SPEECH TOURNAMENT TOPIC
- Should the voting age be reduced to 16?
  - You can choose whether you want to argue pro (for reducing the voting age to 16) or con (against reducing the voting age to 16).

SPEECH REQUIREMENTS
- Your speech must have an introduction, a body (a maximum of three main points or arguments), and a conclusion. Please use the required outline structure in this document to create your speech: http://bit.ly/2eius6a

LENGTH OF SPEECH
- Your speech should be between 5 and 7 minutes. Do not go over 7 minutes or you may be disqualified. This gives each applicant an equal amount of time to speak.

TECHNICAL TIPS
- Have someone else record you or use a tripod. Don’t hold the camera yourself.
- Please shoot landscape (horizontal) and not portrait (vertical).
- Your torso should be visible throughout the speech so we can see your full range of hand gestures as shown in the image below:

![Image of someone recording on a phone]

- When shooting indoors, make sure to turn all the lights on.
- Do not record in front a window with sunlight streaming in. This will cause silhouetting and we will be unable to see your face.
- When shooting outdoors, avoid shooting with the sun directly behind you. This will cause silhouetting as well.
- Your voice must be clearly audible in the video. Speak loudly, slowly, and clearly.
III. Main Point 3: Statement of the third and final main point/argument.
   A. Sub-point: Idea of development or support for the third main point.
      1. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
      2. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
   B. Sub-point: More development or support.
      1. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
      2. Support material (ex: statistics, facts, quotation, etc. Verbally cite all sources.)
   C. More development if needed.

CONCLUSION

I. Review Main Points: Restate your thesis and main points/arguments.
II. Memorable Closing Statement: Develop a creative closing that will give the speech a sense of ending and leave the audience with a strong final thought or impression about the topic.