

Debate This Year

Debate is being held a little differently this year. The meets are being held over Zoom or another multiple screen sharing website.

“The only reason it’s going to Zoom is because the Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita schools would all be online,” head coach Betsy Dutton said. “The only way they could do debate was to be online.”

One of the main differences debaters are facing this season, excluding the meets being online, is that the students are making all of their files digitally on a computer.

“There are people who already used computers for their files and we still used paper,” Dutton said.

“Some students are finding it difficult to adapt to the computer filing system. I definitely feel less prepared just because we have never used computers, we have always done paper,” fourth year debater Aubrey Anderson said. “Other schools have gone digital, but Sterling never has so it is like a whole new world to us and although other teams can adapt to it easily, it’s like brand new so I feel less prepared but I’m hoping that by the end of the season it will be natural.”

It is hard to tell if the novices, first time debaters, this year will be getting the same level of competition as years prior have.

“I would not say they are getting the full experience at all just because a big thing about being a novice is having that experience of standing up in front of people you don’t know and speaking about intelligent things,” Anderson said. “So it is going to be a little different just being with one person from your school and being online. It’s just different.”

Anderson is choosing to look on the bright side of things during this uncertain time so she can have her senior season.

“I think debate being online is hard and I don’t like some aspects of it,” Anderson said. “I just like the purpose of debate and what it is striving for as far as goals so it’s okay. We will get used to it.”



[Source](#)