

# UDJ FORENSICS TEAM INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Mr. Davidson  
Head Coach

# WHO ARE WE? WHAT IS FORENSICS?

- Forensic [fuh-ren-sik]: adj. 1. pertaining to, connected with, or used in courts of law or public discussion and debate 2. adapted or suited to argumentation; noun 3. forensics, the art or study of argumentation and formal debate
- We are a high school team as part of the Detroit Catholic Forensic League (a member of the National Catholic Forensic League)
- We compete in the section of the league also called “Individual Events” because all students compete individually, not as a school.
  - Yes, U of D students will be competing against other U of D students and anyone else present at the competition
- We compete in areas of public speaking and dramatic performance

# WHAT TO WE DO?

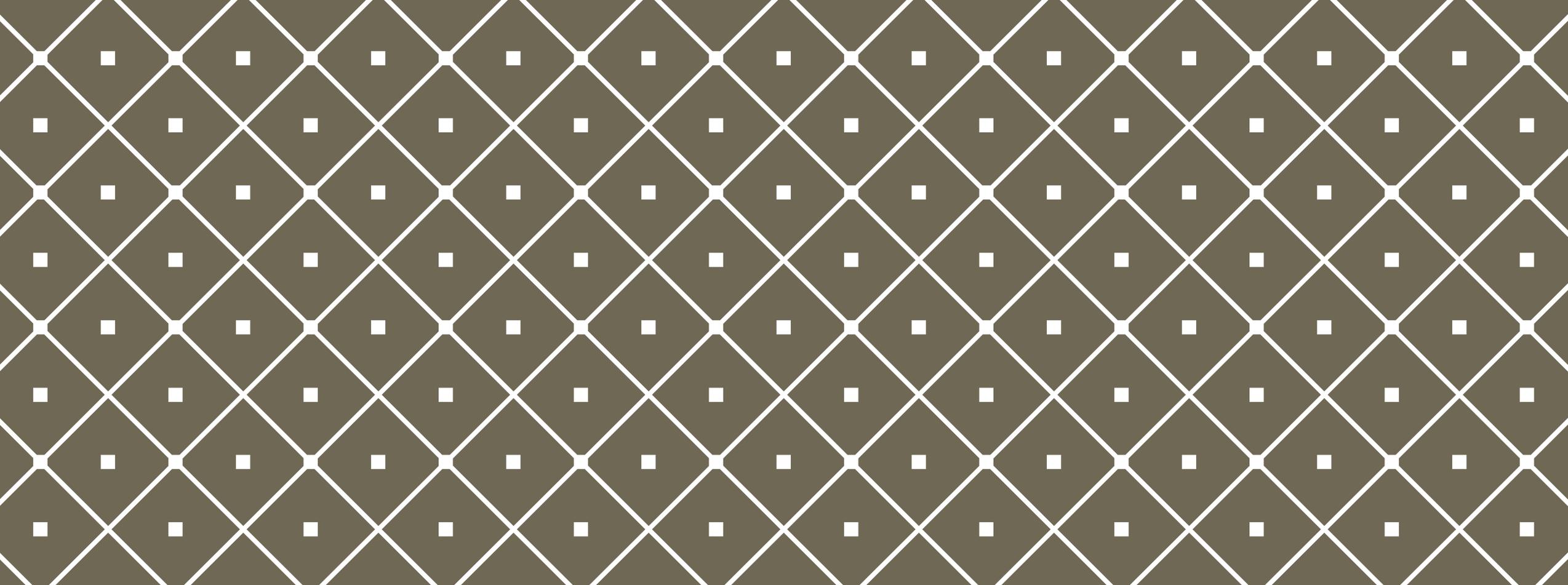
- There are five regular season tournaments, one national qualifier tournament, and one grand national tournament as part of our season.
- All competitions take place in the second semester.
- What about first semester?
  - First semester is all preparation:
    - Selecting a category
    - Choosing a piece or argument
    - Memorizing the piece or argument
    - Blocking the piece or argument
    - Working on the piece or argument with the coach for feedback

# HOW DO TOURNAMENTS WORK?

- The DCFL hosts Saturday morning tournaments at league high schools around southeastern Michigan.
- Students arrive to the school at 7:30 (disqualified after 7:45)
  - Students should be in proper attire (suit, sport coat, tie, etc.)
- The tournaments start at 8:00
  - Three rounds of doing the same piece or argument for different judges (mostly)
  - Each judge will rank you 1 through 4 and give you a percentage from 100 and down
  - After three rounds, all scores will be combined to determine a winner
- Tournament ends around noon after the ribbon ceremony.
  - Students who place in the top six in their category get a ribbon.

# HOW DO I GET TO NATIONALS, THOUGH?

- The NCFL Grand National Tournament is held each Memorial Day weekend in a different host city each year.
- In order to compete at the National Qualifying tournament, a student must compete in the same category twice and place in that category (top six) once.
- At the National Qualifying tournament, a student must place in the top of their category in order to make it to the national tournament.
  - This is typically 3 or 4 depending on how many schools are registered.
  - There is also an alternate in case someone is unable to compete.
- Those students who made it to the National Qualifying tournament, had decent participation, and will benefit from the event will be invited to attend Nationals to watch and learn.



**COMPETITION CATEGORIES:  
PUBLIC SPEAKING** |

# EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING (EXTEMP)

- Speaker presents a memorized original argument about the current fact or opinion on a designated topic while using source material to add accuracy (7 min max)
- Speaker will be given a question on a topic to answer in a speech
- Speaker has 30 minutes to prepare, write and memorize their answer
- Speaker has access to previously researched source material
- No Internet
- Speaker is judged on accuracy, vocal delivery, and physical delivery
- Each round will be a new topic and a new question, each with 30 minutes to prepare
  - One tournament = three different speeches

# ORATORICAL DECLAMATION (DEC)

- Speaker presents a memorized speech that must have been previously delivered (10 min max)
- Limited to freshmen and sophomores
- Convey message of speech in a sincere, honest, and realistic attempt to recreate spirit of the original presentation (not an impression)
- Vocal delivery should be articulate and fluent
- Physical delivery and gestures should engage audience and invite them into the world of the speech (eye contact)
- No props

# JAIN (2016), “THE PERILS OF INDIFFERENCE”

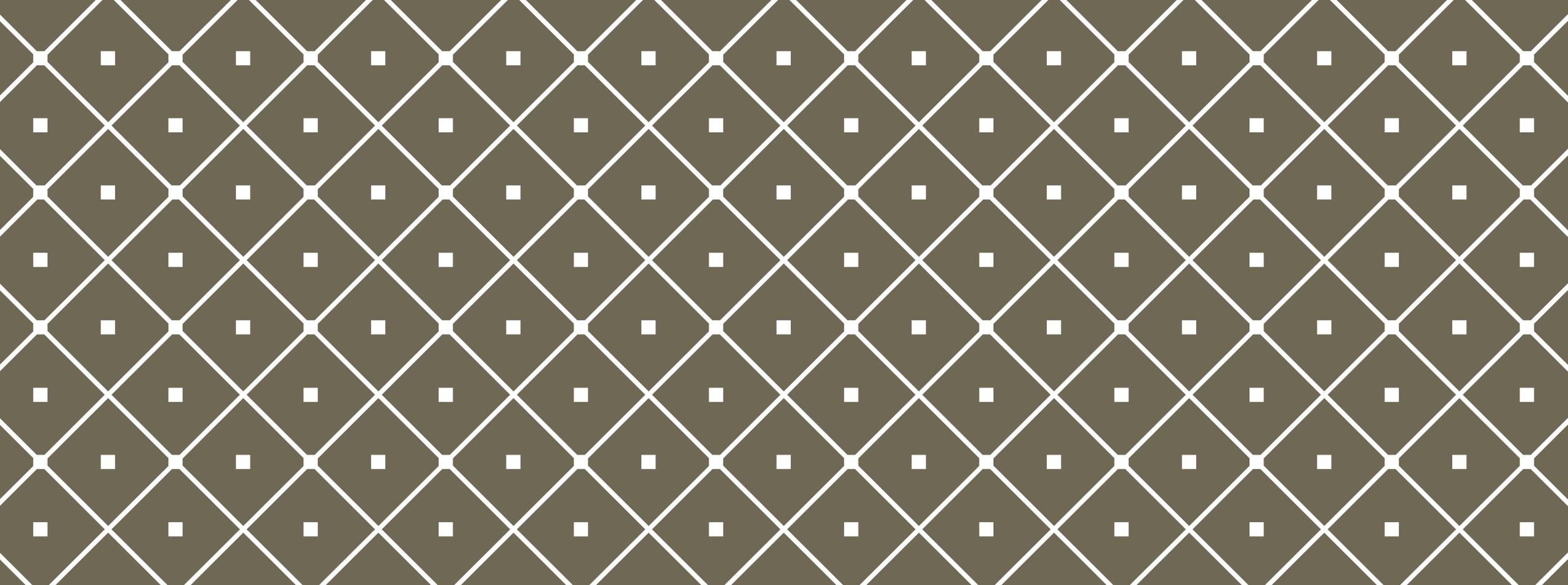


# ORIGINAL ORATORY (00)

- Speaker presents a memorized speech that has been originally written by the speaker on a topic of contemporary significance and personal interest (10 min max)
- Topic should be interesting, stimulating, and of some importance
- Purpose may be to inspire, persuade, eulogize, or inform.
- Speech should gain attention, specify clear thesis, and present information before concluding (clear transitions)
- No more than 150 quoted words
- Strong word choice
- Vocal delivery should be articulate and fluent
- Physical delivery and gestures should engage audience and invite them into the world of the speech (eye contact)
- No props

# BERG (2016), “FREEDOM FROM FEAR”





**COMPETITION CATEGORIES:**  
**DRAMATIC** |

# DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE (DRAMATIC)

- Student performs a memorized dramatic presentation. (10 min max)
- Presentation must be from a single published work: play, script, fiction
- Student can play single or multiple characters
  - Each character should be interesting, engaging, lifelike, and distinct.
- Each character should create a world around him or her (create a three dimensional environment to exist – pantomime), body language is important
- No props

CUSCHIERI (2016), *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF  
THE DOG IN THE NIGHTTIME*



# DUO INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE (DUO)

- Two students perform a memorized selection from a single play, fictional or nonfictional work (10 min max)
- Performers are not allowed to make deliberate physical contact (or eye contact)
- Performers should convince you that they truly see the other characters, should listen and react with body and face – performers should play off each other vocally and physically (genuine interaction)
- No props

# DUNSTONE & ROACHE (2013), *THE HISTORY BOYS*



# DUNSTONE & ROACHE (2014), *RED*



# ORAL INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE (OI)

- Speaker shall prepare two programs to present. Each program will consist of a single piece, a cutting, or a series of short pieces united by author or theme (10 min max)
- One program must be published in prose, the other in poetry
- Speaker must demonstrate a clear understanding of the literature and project its meaning, message and tone.
- Speaker should be believable and conversational and help establish a strong sense of environment
- Vocal variety of pitch, volume, rate and intensity to convey mood
- Binder – natural balance between reading and engaging the audience
- Each round alternates poetry or prose depending on a coin flip before tournament

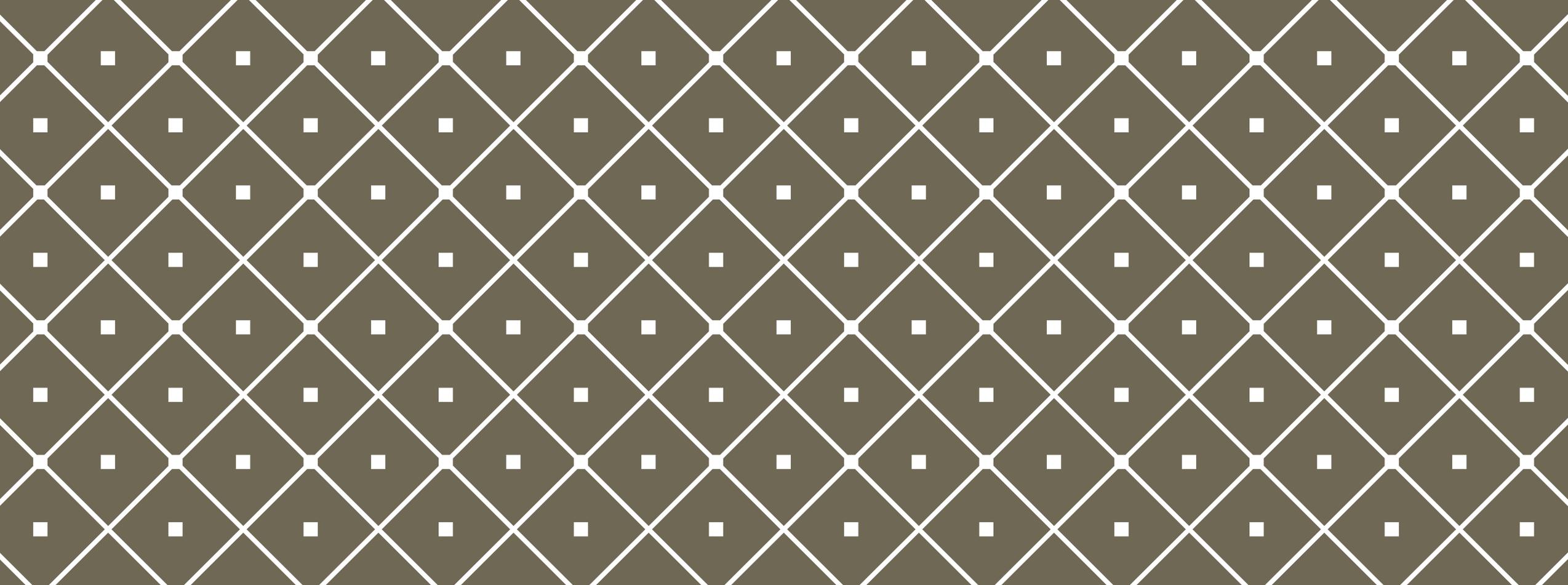
DUNSTONE (2016), PROSE,  
*THE THINGS THEY CARRIED*



# DUNSTONE (2016), POETRY

## “NEAREST EXIT”





**COMING UP...**



# UP NEXT

- Let Mr. Davidson know if this is for you and if you are interested in joining the team
- Category should be selected by September.
- Piece or argument should be written/memorized by October.
- November/December will be spent blocking, perfecting, and improving with the coach or in small groups
- January-March: tournaments
- Memorial Day Weekend: Nationals
  
- For more information, check out the Detroit Catholic Forensic League website at [DCFLMI.com](http://DCFLMI.com)