



The New York City Great Debaters Weekly! *President's Day Special Edition!*

President John F. Kennedy:

"I think debating in high school and college is most valuable training whether for politics, the law, business, or for service... A good debater must not only study material in support of his own case, but he must also, of course, thoroughly analyze the expected argument of his opponent. The give and take of debating, the testing of ideas, is essential to democracy."

President Barack Obama:

"Maybe you could be a mayor or a Senator or a Supreme Court Justice, but you might not know that until you join student government or the debate team."

President Clinton, President Kennedy, President Carter, President Wilson, President Franklin Roosevelt, President Theodore Roosevelt, President Johnson.... to name a few were

all members of their school's debate team! Indeed, a recent survey found that over half of members of Congress were on their school's speech and debate teams!

And so this week we celebrate President's Day and one of the most common characteristics of Presidents, Senators, Representatives, Judges, Lawyers, and Leaders in every field - many were **debaters** in high school and college! And so we dedicate this week's edition as a **PRESIDENTIAL FLASHBACK EDITION** to all of the Presidential Honors, Awards, Visits to the White House, Meetings with the President and First Lady, and anything and everything **PRESIDENTIAL** about our city's Great Debaters!

Special Shout Outs This Week go all our debaters, coaches, teachers, and alumni at Harvard who made history!!!! (next week's edition will be devoted to the Harvard Tournament where NYC debaters dominated the tournament!). Shout outs to [Fish & Richardson](#) and Ms. Liz Cerasuolo for making our City of Champions Debate Tournament possible! Shout outs to [Citizens Committee for NYC](#) for making our High School Championships possible! Thank you to Molly Crossman, Samantha Sallee, and Erika Marte for all their work to support our city's debate league! Thank you Alice Stevenson, the [NY Historical Society](#) and Mr. Tyler Beattie for their work in a historic Elementary Debate Championships at the New York Historical Society. Thank you Professor Kuhn, Laurie Hemberger, and Teachers College for bringing the best educational opportunities to all NYC youth! Thank you everyone for your precedental work to ensure that our youth have access to presidential education opportunities like debate, because our youth will be the next generation of Presidents and leaders. Happy President's Day!

Be Great! Be a Great Debater!

Sincerely,
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Please Consider Donating to Support New York City's Great Debaters!
[CLICK HERE TO DONATE!](#)

New York City High School Debate League Tournament Calendar

February 21-22
Regional Qualifier for
National Championships
@ Regis HS

February 22nd
MHL Blowout at The
Bronx HS Science

February 28th - March 1st

PRESIDENT'S DAY FLASHBACK

President Obama Meets with NYCUDL Debater, Tyler Anderson, ranked #1 Top Speaker in the Nation!

Tyler Anderson, a Senior at ACORN Community High School in Brooklyn last year was honored as the Top Speaker in the nation at the National Association of Urban Debate League's National Championship. At EVERY tournament Tyler and his debate partner, Shamella Jeffers, compete in, they have won top speaker and team awards for their unique



Westchester Classic @
Lakeland High School

March 7th
Girls Debate League
Tournament @ Hunter
College

March 21-22
[Citizens Committee for
NYC High School Debate
Championships @ The
Institute for Collaborative
Education](#)

March 24th
High School End of the
Year Awards Ceremony &
Great Debate

March 29th - 30th
New York State Debate
Championships @ The
Bronx HS Science

April 10th - 14th
National Association of
Urban Debate League's
National Championship

April 25th-27th
Tournament of Champions

June 15th - 20th
National Speech and
Debate League's National
Championships @ Kansas

New York City Middle School Debate League Tournament Calendar

February 28th - March 1st
Westchester Classic @
Lakeland High School

March 7th
Girls Debate League
Tournament @ Hunter
College

March 29th - 30th
New York State Debate
Championships @ The
Bronx HS Science

April 5th

fusion of public speaking, oratory, debate, hip hop, music, rap, poetry, performance, critique, activism and passion. [Click here to learn more.](#)

PRESIDENT'S DAY FLASHBACK

The First Lady Honors the New York City Urban Debate League and Star Debater, Star Arroyo!

Starr Arroyo, a Junior at the Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice as a middle school debater won numerous tournaments and national awards. As a high school debater, Starr retired from debating to devote herself to coaching debate, starting debate teams, co-founding the Girls Debate League and Elementary School Debate League. As a



result she was invited to the White House to meet the First Lady and deliver a speech where she received a standing ovation from everyone! [Click here to learn more.](#)

PRESIDENT'S DAY FLASHBACK....

New York City Urban Debate League Wins White House Youth Award!

Each year the top ten after school programs in the nation are honored by the White House, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Institute for Museum and Library Services, and the Presidential Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Last year, the New York City Urban Debate League was honored to be selected as one of the top after school programs in the nation. [Click here to learn more.](#)



PRESIDENT'S DAY FLASHBACK

President Obama Honors the New York City Urban Debate League and Sister Urban Debate Leagues!

The New York City Urban Debate League is one of many urban debate leagues across the country. Debate historically has only been for wealthy schools that could afford debate. Therefore, less than 1% of the nation's schools and students had access to debate. This assumption has been turned on its head by the urban debate movement which brings debate



TO ALL and as a result, today, the top debaters in the nation are from urban debate leagues. Last summer several urban debate leagues including NYC were invited to the White House to meet with President Obama! [Click here](#) to learn more about urban debate and the National Association of Urban Debate Leagues at www.urbandebate.org.

NYCUDL Middle School
Tournament #7: The
[Bronx High School of
Science's "Battle of the
Boroughs"](#)
@ Bronx HS Science

May 2nd-3rd
[Fish & Richardson's City
of Championships](#)
@ The Institute for
Collaborative Education

May 5th
Middle School End of the
Year Awards Ceremony,
Dinner, and Great Debate!
Sponsored by [Fish &
Richardson](#)

June 15th - 20th
National Speech and
Debate League's National
Championships @ Kansas

**New York City
Elementary School
Debate
League Tournament
Calendar**

March 7th
Girls Debate League
Tournament @ Hunter
College

April 5th
NYCUDL Elementary
School and Middle School
Tournament #7: [The
Bronx High School of
Science's "Battle of the
Boroughs"](#)
@ Bronx HS Science

April 26th
Elementary School City
Championships @ [The
New York Historical
Society](#)

PRESIDENT'S DAY FLASHBACK

NYC Debate Coach Honored as White House Teacher Ambassador!

Jonathon McIntosh is coach of the KIPP AMP Debate Team which is one of the top debate programs in NYC And this year he was selected by the White House to bring his education experience and debate expertise to the White House to impact national education policy! [Click here to learn more.](#) He now meets regularly with the Secretary of Education, President Obama, and top education leaders. Not coincidentally, the Secretary of Education is one of the foremost supporters of urban debate! He recently gave a shout out to all urban debate league coaches, "I thank all of the leaders of the urban debate league movement, and all the debate coaches here tonight, for moving us one step closer to that vision of providing every child with a world--class education. You are literally helping to lead, not just our students, but our nation, where we need to go." - US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.



PRESIDENTIAL FLASH FORWARD...

Our Future Leaders Lead the Harvard University Debate Tournament!

SNEAK PREVIEW FOR NEXT WEEK'S EDITION... THE RESULTS FROM THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY DEBATE TOURNAMENT. Let's just say - New York City debaters dominated the tournament and all awards. Incredible! Historic! Magical! **PRESIDENTIAL....**



Volunteers Needed!

JUDGE THE NEXT PRESIDENT, SUPREME COURT JUSTICE OR MAYOR!

[Click here](#) to sign up to Judge and Volunteer at our upcoming debate tournaments! The only way we can have a citywide debate league for ALL students and ALL schools is with your help!
Thank You for supporting our Great Debaters!