

# THE GREAT DEBATERS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## THE NEW YORK CITY URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

### "Be Great! Be a Great Debater!"



## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL FEATURES NYC GREAT DEBATERS!

This week we celebrate Middle School debate! The Wall Street Journal published an article on Tuesday by Ms. Sophia Hollander, "Teaching Young Students the Fine Art of Arguing" on the renaissance of middle school debate in New York City! In the early 2000s, the urban debate movement brought middle school debate to New York City led by incredible urban debate league coaches such as Ms. Alexandra Glankoff. In 2005, NYC urban debate coaches in the Bronx partnered with Claremont Colleges to bring parliamentary debate to the city. The league started with one urban debate school in the South Bronx and now serves dozens of schools from public to private! In 2011, the New York City Urban Debate League partnered with the [National Association of Urban Debate Leagues](#) to bring debate to ALL schools and ALL students in NYC and is currently serving over 60 middle schools as well as dozens of elementary and high schools. In 2013, former urban debate league coach, Mr. Ben Honoroff and the incredible staff of the Middle School Quality Initiative brought curricular debate to over 100 middle schools and thousands of middle school students with

a historical partnership with the NYC Department of Education and the New York City Urban Debate League. And NYC colleges and universities are bringing debate to middle school classrooms such as our incredible partnership with Professor Kuhn of Teachers College, Columbia University, who is pioneering middle school argumentation and middle school teacher professional development in debate!

As a result, there are more middle school debate teams and middle school debaters in New York City than any city in the nation. And so this week we celebrate our middle school debaters, our middle school educators, our middle school coaches, our middle school parents, our middle school volunteers, our high school students and coaches who mentor our middle school debaters, judges and staff, and all our incredible middle school debate supporters that provide the resources so that each day we get closer and closer to our mission that EVERY school will have a debate team and EVERY student will have access to the best debate education opportunities.

Finally, we thank Ms. Hollander and the Wall Street Journal for shouting out the renaissance of middle school debate in New York City! [Click here for article!](#) Every day we read about a new problem in education. But every day there are more triumphs than defeats. As School Teacher and Debate Coach Curt Stedron stated, "Anyone who bemoans the state of public education need only spend a weekend at a speech and debate tournament to have their faith restored."

So this week we celebrate urban debate leagues' renaissance of middle school debate, and next week we will celebrate the impact of urban debate leagues at our high schools in the other article published this week by the National Review ["How to Bring Your Zombie Child to Life: High School Debate Deserves More Than a Chance."!!!](#)

***BE GREAT! BE A GREAT DEBATER!***

Sincerely,  
Erik Fogel, Director of the New York City Urban Debate League  
Website: [www.nycudl.org](http://www.nycudl.org)  
Blog: <http://nycudl.blogspot.com>  
Debate Camp Website: [www.nycdebatecamp.org](http://www.nycdebatecamp.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nycudl](http://www.facebook.com/nycudl)  
Twitter: #nycdebateleague  
Email: [nycudl@gmail.com](mailto:nycudl@gmail.com)  
Phone: 917-455-1079



***Be Great! Be a Great Debater!  
Support Our City's Debate League!***

**[Click here to learn more about supporting our Great Debaters and our city's debate league for all ages.](#)**

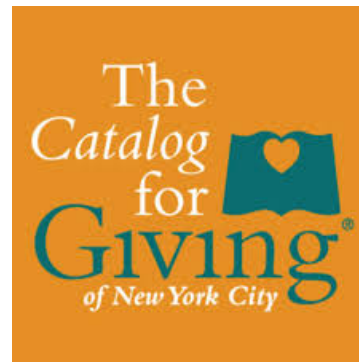
**NYC DEBATE WEEKLY NEWS**

## Celebrating the incredible achievements of our Great Debaters every week.



### Brown Rudnick Continues Historical Partnership to Bring Debate To All NYC Youth!

One of the most unique partnerships in NYC education reform began with cupcakes! In the early 2000s there was only one debate team left in the South Bronx after the recession. They not only survived but thrived to national championships by daily bake sales! The law firm of [Brown Rudnick's Center for Public Interest](#) partnered up with this debate team to replicate the urban debate model throughout the Bronx and New York City. Today, the New York City Urban Debate League is one of the largest debate leagues in the nation serving over 1000 students and over 100 schools. We thank Brown Rudnick for its continued support to bring the most rigorous academic opportunities to all NYC youth.



### New York City Urban Debate League Selected as one of the Top Youth Programs in New York City!

Every three years, 10 exceptional "best of the best" NYC community based start up organizations are selected by the [Catalog for Giving](#) for a three year partnership to leverage impact for NYC youth and change the city. This year the New York City Urban Debate League was selected for the Catalog's 7th Edition starting in January! And so for the next three years and beyond the NYCUDL will work with an incredible cohort of past and present NYC nonprofits to leverage impact. We are so thankful and honored at this opportunity by the Catalog as well as to learn from so many other incredible NYC organizations. This partnership is historic for the NYC Debate League and our mission to bring scholastic debate to all schools.

## BROOKLYN SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTE @ FREDERICK DOUGLASS ACADEMY VIII!





FDA Debaters win the City Championship at Columbia University

Thanks to the amazing Ms. Vitale, coach of the FDA Debate Team, Principal Martin and Frederick Douglas Academy VIII, we hosted our second debate camp in Brooklyn this summer and first at Frederick Douglas Academy! Frederick Douglas Academy has one of the top debate teams in the city including winner of the past two City Championships tournaments! Ms. Vitale is an award winning debate coach and is joined by an incredible Brooklyn debate staff!

### **Sample Debate Camp Schedule**

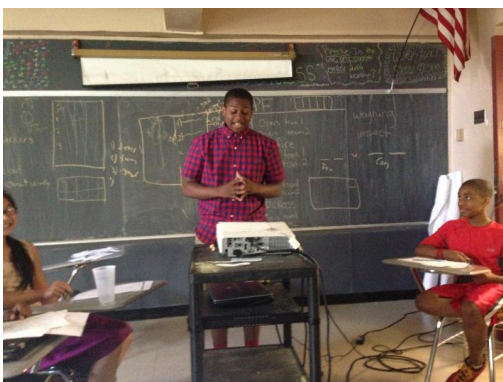
9:00am-9:30am - Breakfast

9:30am-10:30am - Morning Lectures  
(Topic Lectures, Theory Lectures)

10:30am - 12:30am - Lab Practices  
(Public Speaking drills, Speechwriting)

12:30pm - 1:00pm - Lunch

## **THANK YOU TO OUR BROOKLYN SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTE STAFF!**



### **Sarah Cogan**

Sarah Cogan is a rising senior at Hunter College High School, where she has been debating since the 8th grade. In middle school she competed in parliamentary debate and in high school has competed in Lincoln Douglas debate and Public Forum Debate. As a freshman and sophomore she assisted her school's middle school parliamentary debate team and high school Lincoln Douglas debate team. As a debater, Sarah has made finals and top speaker of the New York State Debate Coaches Championship Tournament in Varsity Lincoln Douglas debate. She has reached Varsity Lincoln Douglas elimination rounds at numerous national circuit tournaments including Yale, Bump, Princeton, Newark, Columbia and Harvard. She hopes to continue debate in college and possibly pursuing philosophy as a major. Outside of debate, she writes for the school newspaper, sings, and... wishes she was debating.



**Erik Fogel**

Erik Fogel is Director of the New York City Urban Debate League and coach of the Debate Team at the Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice. His debaters have won top awards at every single debate tournament in the Northeast including Harvard, Yale, Georgetown, NYC, Lexington, Manchester, Ridge, Newark, Washington DC and everywhere else!. He coached the first New York City middle school teams to win top awards at the National Championships including Quarterfinalists, Semifinalists, and Third Place Top Speaker. Mr. Fogel received his B.A.in Political Science & History from UC Berkeley, J.D. from UC Hastings College of Law, and M.A. in Education from Pace University.

**Sherman Smalls**

Mr. Smalls has been an incredible volunteer coach and judge with the New York City Urban Debate League. A retired NYC Firefighter, Mr. Smalls now shares his passion and expertise in teaching public speaking. We are so honored to have Mr. Smalls at our second Brooklyn Debate Camp!

**Katie Vitale**

A TFA alumna originally from MI, Katie Vitale graduated from Bank Street and Sarah Lawrence with a Masters in Educational Leadership and the Arts, where she wrote her graduate thesis on the holistic benefits of Public Forum Debate. A 2014 Big Apple Award winner, she teaches ELA and Debate and serves as a Peer Instructional Coach. Katie is passionate about debate because it is authentic learning that motivates and deeply engages her scholars to become stronger readers, writers, critical thinkers and leaders. Katie loves writing creatively and working with Kathleen Dodd, Ariana Warren, Siddique Baksh, and David Grant to coach the award-winning Frederick Douglass Academy VIII Debate Team.

## SUMMER DEBATE TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Click here to register for debate camp!

There's no summer break for debate! Welcome to our summer debate season with tournaments nearly every weekend! And if interested in volunteering as a judge at any of these tournaments, please email us at [nycudl@gmail.com](mailto:nycudl@gmail.com). Thank You!

**Summer Debate Tournament Calendar**

July 3 - Harlem Summer Debate Tournament

July 11th - Brooklyn Summer Debate Tournament

July 31st - Manhattan Middle School Summer Debate Tournament

August 1st - Manhattan High School Summer Debate Tournament

August 15th - Bronx Summer Debate Tournament

August 29th - Queens Summer Debate Tournament

August 29th - Teachers Summer Debate Tournament



August 29th - Columbia University Summer Debate Tournament

**Policy Debate Topic (2014-2015)**

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its non-military exploration and/or development of the Earth's oceans.

**Public Forum Debate Topic (September/October 2014)**

Topic Area: Sports in the United States.

Choice 1 - Resolved: On balance, students in grades 6-12 in the United States benefit when their schools offer interscholastic sports.

Choice 2 - Resolved: On balance, public subsidies for professional athletic organizations in the United States benefit their local communities.

**International Public Policy Forum Topic (2014-2015)**

Resolved: Mass surveillance is not a justified method of governmental intelligence gathering.

**Parliamentary Debate Topics**

Student selected!

## SIGN UP NOW FOR SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTE!

New York City Debate Camps provide rigorous summer academic debate education programs for all NYC youth throughout the summer.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)



**REGISTER NOW FOR  
NEW YORK CITY  
SUMMER DEBATE CAMPS!**

[CLICK HERE FOR  
REGISTRATION!](#)

The New York City Urban Debate League hosts debate camps throughout the summer in each of the boroughs for all ages. For more information on our summer debate camp programs, please visit our website by clicking [here](#) or



**2014 NEW YORK CITY  
SUMMER DEBATE CAMP  
DATES AND LOCATIONS!**

Manhattan Debate Institute  
Bronx Debate Institute  
Queens Debate Institute  
Harlem Debate Institute I  
Harlem Debate Institute II  
Teachers Debate Institute  
Varsity Debate Institute  
Columbia Debate Camp

[Click here to Register!](#)

**Harlem Debate Institute**

[www.nycdebatecamp.org](http://www.nycdebatecamp.org). Dates and locations can also be found on the right. NYC Debate Camp is free for all Title I schools that are members of the NYC Urban Debate League.

### Why Debate Camp?

Beginner Debaters! Learn the fundamentals of debate, develop public speaking skills, try out your first debate tournament and more!

Advanced Debaters! Train on the upcoming 2014-2015 debate topics!! Learn from top college debaters and debate master teachers!

Teachers, Coaches and Judges! Learn everything about starting a debate team, all the debate formats, beginner and advanced debate coaching techniques, judging, team fundraising, team recruitment, best lesson plans and more!

All Debaters! Weeks of intense debate study by the top debate teachers and coaches! Coaches, classes, electives, debate supplies, breakfast, lunch, awards, scrimmages, law firm visits, mentors, tournaments and more!!

### **Thank You to Our Sponsors!**

Debate Camps can cost several thousand dollars. We are able to provide free debate camps for Title I schools as well as any student for the fraction of the cost due to incredible supporters that believe in our mission that all schools should have a debate team and all students should have access to the best debate education opportunities. We thank...

***The Arthur Rupe Foundation***

***The West Harlem Development Corporation***

Harlem Debate Institute @ Columbia University, Teachers College, 525 W 120th St, New York, NY 10027 (June 30th - July 3rd, 9:00am-1:00pm)

### **Bronx Debate Institute**

Bronx Debate Institute @ PS/MS 15 School for Environmental Studies, 2195 Andrews Ave New York, New York 10453 (August 11th-15th)

### **Brooklyn Debate Institute**

Frederick Douglas Academy VIII (July 7th- July 11th, 9:00am-2:00pm), 1400 Pennsylvania Ave, Brooklyn 11239

### **Queens Debate Institute**

Maspeth High School, 54-40 74th St, New York, NY 11378 (August 25th-29th, 9:00am-1:00pm)

### **Teachers Debate Institute**

Teachers College Debate Institute for Teachers @ Teachers College, Columbia University, 525 W 120th St, New York, NY 10027 (August 25th-29th, 9:00am-1:00pm)

### **Columbia University Debate Institute**

@ Columbia University, Teachers College, 525 W 120th St, New York, NY 10027 (August 25th - August 29th, 9:00am-1:00pm)

### **Manhattan Debate Institutes & Hunter College**

Manhattan Debate Institute @ Hunter College, Silberman School of Social Work, 2180 Third Avenue at 119th Street, NY, NY 10035 (July 21st-August 1st, 9:00am-1:00pm)

Manhattan Debate Institute Advanced Lab for High School Students @ Hunter College (July 21st - August 1st, 9:00am-4:00pm) @ Hunter College, Silberman School of Social Work, 2180 Third Avenue at 119th Street, NY, NY 10035

Elementary School Debate Institute @ Hunter College (July 28th - August 1st, 9:00am-1:00pm) @ Hunter College, Silberman School of Social Work, 2180 Third Avenue at 119th Street, NY, NY 10035

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)**

**New Yankee Stadium Community  
Benefits Fund, Inc.**

**Supporters and Volunteers like  
You!**

## OUR NYC DEBATE LEAGUE PROGRAMS

**NEW YORK CITY'S MOST RIGOROUS ACADEMIC PROGRAM -  
EVERY DAY, EVERY WEEKEND, EVERY SUMMER - YEAR ROUND.**



### High School Debate League

#### HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE RESOURCES

High School Travel Team  
Tournament Calendar.  
[Click here.](#)

High School National  
Circuit Team  
[Click here.](#)

High School Policy Debate  
Resources.  
[Click here.](#)

High School Public Forum  
Debate Resources.  
[Click here.](#)

High School Lincoln  
Douglas Debate  
Resources.  
[Click here.](#)

*Contact us for any help!*  
[Click here.](#) or  
[nycudl@gmail.com](mailto:nycudl@gmail.com)



### Middle School Debate League

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBATE LEAGUE RESOURCES

Middle School Tournament  
Calendar. [Click here.](#)

Middle School Policy  
Debate Resources.  
[Click here.](#)

Middle School Public  
Forum Debate  
Resources.  
[Click here.](#)

Middle School  
Parliamentary Debate  
Resources.  
[Click here.](#)

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[nycudl@gmail.com](mailto:nycudl@gmail.com)



### Elementary School Debate League

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEBATE LEAGUE RESOURCES

Elementary School  
Tournament  
Calendar. [Click here.](#)

Elementary School Debate  
Resources. [Click here.](#)

*Contact us for any help!*  
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