

THE GREAT DEBATERS NEWSLETTER!
THE NEW YORK CITY URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE
"Be Great! Be a Great Debater!"



"No longer may this liberty be denied"
- Justice Kennedy

This week one of the most controversial debates of our generation was concluded when the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that same-sex couples can marry nationwide, establishing a new civil right. Justice Kennedy writing for the majority was joined by Justices Sotomayor (former high school debater from the Bronx), Breyer (former high school debater), Kagan (met with our debaters at the Supreme Court), and Ginsburg. The dissent included Justices Scalia (former high school debater), Alioto (former high school debater), Roberts (met with our High School debate coaches) and Thomas.

"Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilizations oldest institutions. They ask for dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right. The judgment of the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit is reversed." - The United States Supreme Court, Obergefell v. Hodge (2015).

"It is simply untenable -- untenable -- to suggest that they can be denied the right of equal participation in an institution of marriage, or that they can be required to wait until the majority decides that it is ready to treat gay and lesbian people as equals." - Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr., arguing before the US Supreme Court.

"We've made our union a little more perfect." - President Obama

"This decision recognizes the fundamental truth that our love is all equal. Today is a great day for America. #LoveWins" - Tweet from first lady Michelle Obama.

"From this day forward, it will simply be 'marriage.'" - Lead Plaintiff Jim Obergefell.

Commentators remarked the date is particularly significant because it was this very same weekend in 1969 when the "Public Morals Squad" of the police department raided the Stonewall Inn and sparked the Stonewall Riots which are widely regarded as the beginning of the modern gay rights movement.

And so this week we celebrate the Plaintiffs of the historic *Obergefell v. Hodge* decision - James Obergefell, Valeria Tanco, April DeBoer, Gregory Bourke - and the countless other advocates who use their voices to change the world. As Gandhi stated, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

Upcoming NYC Debate Events

July 6-10 - [Harlem Summer Debate Institute](#) (Columbia University)
 July 20-31 - [Varsity High School Debate Institute \(Silberman Graduate School\)](#)
 July 20-31 - [Manhattan HS Debate Institute \(Silberman Graduate School\)](#)
 July 20-31 - [Manhattan Middle School Debate Institute \(Hunter College\)](#)
 July 20-24 - Manhattan MSQI Debate Institute (Hunter College)
 July 27-31 - [Manhattan Elementary School Debate Institute \(Hunter College\)](#)
 August 10-14 - Brooklyn MSQI Debate Institute
 August 17-28 - [Queens Middle School Debate Institute \(Maspeth High School\)](#)
 August 17-28 - [Queens High School Debate Institute \(Maspeth High School\)](#)
 August 17-28 - [Queens Varsity HS Debate Institute \(Maspeth High School\)](#)

Sincerely,

THE NEW YORK CITY URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

[Bronx Debate League](#), [Brooklyn Debate League](#), [Harlem Debate League](#), [Manhattan Debate League](#), [Queens Debate League](#), [Girls Debate League](#)

EMPOWERING NYC YOUTH TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE THROUGH ACADEMIC DEBATE.

Email: nycudl@gmail.com

Phone: 917-455-1079

Website: www.debate.nyc

Blog: www.debate.nyc/news/blog

Debate Camp Website: www.debate.nyc/programs/summer

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nycudl

Twitter: www.twitter.com/nycdebateleague

Be Great! Be a Great Debater!
Support Our City's Debate League!
[Click here to donate!](#)



New York City Debate News

All students should have the best debate education opportunities.

JUNE 19TH **MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS SPEECH HIGHLIGHTING DEBATE TEAMS!**

Mayor de Blasio gave the graduation speech for Brooklyn Tech High School's graduating class at the Barclays Center on Friday. In his speech he described the importance of debate. The Brooklyn Tech Debate Team is one of the largest and most successful debate teams in the NYC Urban Debate League and the State Debate Champion is Brooklyn Tech High School debater, Dante de Blasio!

[Click here to learn more.](#)



JUNE 24TH **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT!**

On Wednesday, June 24th we celebrated our first Volunteer Appreciation Night with all the judges, volunteers, teachers, coaches, alumni, staff, interns - and everyone who volunteers their time to make debate happen in New York City. We could not have a debate league without you.



Thank You for judging over 10,000 debate rounds.
Thank You for making over 30 debate tournaments happen.
Thank You for serving over 1500 debaters this school year.
Thank You for volunteering your time as coaches, teachers, and mentors.
Thank You for ensuring that 100% of our seniors graduate and attend college.
Thank You for making debate accessible to all.

JUNE 26TH **UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT RULING MAKES SAME SEX MARRIAGE A RIGHT NATIONWIDE**

One of the most controversial debate topics of our generation and has been the topic of several NYC debate tournaments has been the topic of same sex marriage. On Friday, in a historic ruling, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the right to same sex marriage. Like the Brown vs. Board of Education decision this was the result of decades of debate, advocacy and reform.

Once a topic of taboo and criminalization - the vast majority of states now recognize same sex marriage, the majority of Americans favor same sex marriage, and on Friday the United States Supreme Court held the constitutional right to marry for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation. For the full transcript of the decision and more, [click here.](#)



JUNE 14TH-19TH

#2 IN THE NATION!

#2 IN THE NATION

2015 NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
DALLAS, TEXAS

Urban Debate history was made last week when the Institute for Collaborative Education reached Semifinals in Public Forum Debate at the National Speech and Debate Championships in Dallas, Texas. The Institute for Collaborative Education also won the Second Place Top Speaker Award! Huge shout outs to all our other participating schools including Maspeth High School, Hunters Point Community School, Bronx Science, Stuyvesant High School, Berkeley Carroll, The Equity Project Charter School and many other NYC schools that qualified for the National Championships. The National Speech and Debate Championships is the largest academic competition in the world. To give you a general sense of how large the tournament is - you can combine all the next largest academic national championships like the National Spelling Bee and the National Chess Championships - and the National Debate and Speech Championships would still be the largest academic tournament! And so a huge congratulations to the Institute for Collaborative Education as well as all our schools that qualified and competed at the National Championships. [Click here to learn more!](#)

NYC SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTES!

[Click here to register!](#)



ABOUT NYC SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTES



INTRODUCING THE 2015 NEW YORK CITY SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTES!

Applications now open for New York City
2015 Summer Debate Institutes!

[Click here to register now!](#)

The New York City Urban Debate League hosts the longest and largest summer debate program in the nation with debate institutes throughout the summer in each of the boroughs. Our summer program is free for all schools and students that are members of the NYC Debate League, thanks to the incredible support of the Arthur Rupe Foundation and the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest.

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 2015-2016 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, 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!!

REGISTER BY JUNE 1ST 2015!

Click below for more details on each of our community debate institutes. [Learn more](#) about Summer Registration. See below for more information on each camp.

Application deadline for July camps is June 1st, 2015. Application deadline for August camps is July 1st.

July 6 - 10. Harlem Debate Institute

<http://debate.nyc/summer/harlem/>

July 6th - 10th, 2015

(Columbia University, Middle School only)

July 20-31. Manhattan Debate Institute

<http://debate.nyc/summer/manhattan/>

July 20th - 31st, 2015

(Hunter College, Novice High School, Varsity High School, Middle School)

July 20-31. Elementary School Debate Institute

<http://debate.nyc/summer/elementary/>

July 20th - 31st, 2015

(Hunter College, Elementary School)

August 17-28. Queens Debate Institute

<http://debate.nyc/summer/queens/>

August 17th - 28th, 2015, Maspeth High School (Novice High School, Varsity High School, Middle School)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

JOIN THE NEW YORK CITY URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE FOR THE 2015-2016 DEBATE SEASON!

DEBATE TOURNAMENTS EVERY WEEKEND, DEBATE
CENTERS EVERY WEEK, DEBATE NIGHTS EVERY MONTH,
SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTES ALL SUMMER IN OUR
BRONX, MANHATTAN, QUEENS, BROOKLYN, HARLEM AND
CITYWIDE DEBATE LEAGUES.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL NOW!](#)

CLICK HERE TO DONATE
TO SUPPORT OUR CITY'S
GREAT DEBATERS!

Stay
Connected

 Like us on Facebook

Follow us on **twitter**

View our profile on
LinkedIn