

THE GREAT DEBATERS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
THE NEW YORK CITY URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

"Be Great! Be a Great Debater!"

**"IN HIS CANCER FIGHT, BEATING THE
ODDS WASN'T UP FOR DEBATE."
- Livewell Nebraska**



Brandon Beresh at the age of 5 was diagnosed with a rare bone cancer. 14 rounds of radiation, 6 weeks of radiation, surgery where he lost 3½ times his total blood volume, and a lifetime of a weakened heart - nevertheless today Brandon is Captain of the Debate Team and has led his team to multiple State Championships.

His mother states, "Debate is much more than a pastime for Jake. It's been a lifeline. It feeds his fierce competitive nature. He's motivated to excel" According to Jake, "Face stuff head-on. Don't be afraid of new challenges. Embrace what's going on around you. Try to solve the problem and make the best of the problem."

[Click here for full article.](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs126/1103318109276/archive/1118259177070.html)

Every week a new study or news article is published on the academic benefits of debate. But even more powerful are the stories from students themselves how debate has changed their lives, empowered them to overcome incredible obstacles, and made the world a better place. So while we can talk statistics, data, metrics, and other fancy terms to make the case for debate in every school - what is even more infinitely powerful are the voices of students. From the shy student who makes their first public speech because of debate to the frustrated student who articulates their advocacy for the first time to the joyous student who wins their first trophy - and the list goes on and on and is different for every Great Debater out there. And so here's to the Great Debaters out there in NYC, America and the rest of the world who are changing things. As Bill Gates stated in the landmark [Apple "Think Different" campaign commercial](#) (and nearly half the people featured in the video were high school and college debaters - Martin Luther King Jr, Gandhi, Ted Turner, etc) - "Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. But the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do." - Bill Gates, Founder Apple Computers ([Click here](#) for the Apple "Think Different" Video and full quotation.

Think Different. Join a Debate Team. Start a Debate Team. Change the World.

BE GREAT! BE A GREAT DEBATER!

Sincerely,
Erik Fogel, Director
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***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.

DEBATE TEAM IS #1 EXTRACURRICULAR TO HELP IN LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS



Last week we celebrated two inspirational news articles that highlighted the academic benefits of scholastic debate. This week is no exception! This week we celebrate another article from Ingenius Prep which lists Debate Team as the #1 prep for Law School and Law School Admissions....

"Debate Team. Debate can be an excellent training ground for future lawyers. It will help you develop strong communication skills, form decisive arguments, and learn how to prove and present them extemporaneously. Memorization comes in handy, but it won't matter if you do not know how to analyze and interpret logical relationships between texts. Debate teaches you that, and allows you to practice it. In fact, several Supreme Court justices are former debaters. Law schools will recognize your ability to distill nuanced arguments from a complex set of facts and to present them cogently in front of an audience. Granted, not all law will afford you the opportunity to speak in public, but you will always need to present your ideas coherently and succinctly orally and in writing." [Click here for full article!](#)

** Editors Note - the other three top extracurricular activities listed for Law School Admissions are all debate related!! - Model United Nations, Pre-Law, and Student Government! That's right, there's no debate that debate is the most powerful academic program!*

LAST WEEK OF THE SUMMER OF DEBATE!
QUEENS SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTE!
HARLEM SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTE!
TEACHERS SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTE!

This week we celebrate the last week of NYC Debate Camp! We've had a historic six weeks of summer debate camp with over 250 students participating and a huge shout out

to over 30 teachers, staff members, interns and volunteers who have made summer debate camp possible! So a huge shout out to the Brooklyn Summer Debate Institute, Bronx Summer Debate Institute, Harlem Summer Debate Institute, Manhattan Summer Debate Institute - and three more Summer Debate Institutes coming this week - The Queens Summer Debate Institute, The Harlem/Columbia University Summer Debate Institute and our first Teachers Debate Institute. Sign up now if you haven't already by contacting us at nycudl@gmail.com.



**SPORTS
DEBATE TOPIC!
NATIONAL MIDDLE
SCHOOL
AND HIGH SCHOOL
PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
TOPIC ANNOUNCED!**

Based on a nationwide vote, the September/October 2014 Public Forum topic is, Resolved: On balance, public subsidies for professional athletic organizations in the United States benefit their local communities.

A total of 360 schools and 298 students voted for the resolution. The winning resolution received 51% of the school vote and 56% percent of the student vote.

Public Forum Debate is the newest debate format in the United States and has quickly grown to become the largest middle school and high school debate format nationwide. Topics change monthly based on current events and all students and coaches vote for the national topics.



**THE 2014
OCEANS GREAT
DEBATE!
NATIONAL MIDDLE
SCHOOL AND HIGH
SCHOOL POLICY
DEBATE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE!**

Policy Debate is the oldest style of debate in the United States and one of the most rigorous debate formats. Students study and research a single topic during the year and earn basically a master's thesis on the topic.

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

You can find topic resources at the [National Association of Urban Debate League's website](#) as well as the [Open Evidence Project](#) and our Starter Packets will be sent out to schools at the start of the school year!



**LAST SUMMER
DEBATE
TOURNAMENT THIS
FRIDAY!**

This Summer we have hosted the Manhattan Summer Debate Tournament, Bronx Summer Debate Tournament, Harlem Summer Debate Tournament and this week we will host the last summer debate tournaments with the Queens Summer Debate Tournament and the Harlem II Summer Debate Tournament! If you would like to judge at our last summer debate tournament please contact us at nycudl@gmail.com! Thank you and good luck to all our Great Debaters!

SHOUT OUT TO OUR QUEENS, HARLEM, AND TEACHERS DEBATE CAMP STAFF

On Monday, August 25th, we host the last week of the NYC Summer Debate Camp in Queens and Harlem! We thank an amazing staff who will share their passion of debate with over 70 students and teachers this week!

Frank Zhao

Frank Zhao was our Queens Summer Debate Institute Program Director last year as well our Public Forum and Parliamentary Debate Coordinator at our local tournaments. Frank is a long time member of the St. John's University Debate Team and long time supporter of the New York City Urban Debate League and bringing debate education opportunities to all students.

Samantha Katz

Samantha Katz is an English Language Arts teacher and Debate Coach at One World Middle School in the Bronx. Her students have been debating in Parliamentary leagues for the past two years. Her debaters have placed both individually and as teams in the top five at several tournaments, including winning a top overall speaker award and second place team awards. Outside of the classroom and the Debate world, Samantha enjoys reading, listening to music, spending time with friends, exploring neighborhoods, and volunteering for the American Cancer Society by helping to plan Manhattan's Relay for Life.

Loretta Brady

One of the longest serving middle school debate instructors in New York City. Coach of numerous local and regional champions. Instructor at our debate camps every summer as well as the Harvard Summer Debate Institute. Ms. Brady is the award winning coach of the PS 278 Great Debaters!

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.

Yaakov Waronker

Yaakov Waronker is going to be a sophomore at Millennium Brooklyn High School (MBHS) for the 2014-2015 school year. Yaakov has been on the debate team at MBHS since 2013. Yaakov attended the Urban Debate League camp at Hunter College that he thoroughly enjoyed. Yaakov's hobbies are debating, camping, fishing, creating magic the gathering decks, and learning Torah.

Joshua Moriarty

Joshua Moriarty is a rising sophomore at Hunter College High School in Manhattan. He's been debating for three years, with two years of experience in parliamentary debate and one in public forum. In parliamentary debate, he won the top speaker award at the Middle School Public Debate Program's national invitational tournament at Claremont McKenna College. In public forum, he was the NYSDCA New York State junior varsity champion and co-champion of the Newark Invitational's varsity tournament. He advanced to elimination rounds in the varsity fields at the Princeton, Scarsdale, and Harvard Invitationals.

St. John's University Debate Team

We thank the incredible and award winning debate team of St. John's University in Queens for sharing their passion, experience, and debate skills with us at the Queens Summer Debate Institute!

Alina Kulman

Alina Kulman is a rising sophomore at Hunter College High School. She began her debate career with parliamentary debate in 8th grade, and her team placed in the top 5 at every tournament they attended. This led her to immense interest in debate, and this year Alina competed in her novice year of Lincoln Douglas, reaching elimination rounds at the State finals, the Scarsdale Invitational and the Ridge Debates. Outside of debate, Alina plays piano, tennis, and thinks about debating.

Emily Tran

Emily Tran is a rising sophomore at Hunter College High School, and has been debating for three years in Parliamentary and Lincoln Douglas debate, with a brief foray into Policy. Last year, she and her team won the city championships, as well as placing second at the national Middle School Parliamentary Debate Championships. This year, she competed on local and national circuits, becoming a semifinalist and 5th place speaker at the New York State Debate Coaches Championships. Debate has been an incredible adventure, and she hopes to share it with others. Outside of debate, Emily fiddles around with Photoshop and tries to hibernate.

Pablo Blanco

Pablo Blanco is a junior at Stuyvesant High School, who participates in the activity of policy debate. He has 2 years of High school experience and has participated in several national tournaments. Pablo also dedicates some time to volunteer work and spends time in his school's branch of Aspira. Pablo aims to enrich the debate community and hopes that spending time with the UDL makes that possible.

Jason Chen

Jason Chen is a rising junior at the Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice. He comes from a family of debaters and is dedicating the summer to interning at the NYCUDL. Jason is also a member of the ROTC and plans to pursue a career in the military.

LAST WEEK FOR DEBATE CAMP!

Queens Debate Institute (August 25th-29th)
Columbia University Debate Camp (August 25th-29th)
Teachers Debate Institute (August 25th-29th)

[Click here to register for Summer Debate Camp or School Year Programs!](#)

All members of the New York City Urban Debate League are eligible for full scholarships to Debate Camp
Email us at nycudl@gmail.com for scholarship information!

NYC DEBATE LEAGUE PROGRAMS
NEW YORK CITY'S MOST RIGOROUS ACADEMIC PROGRAM
EVERY DAY. EVERY WEEKEND. ALL SUMMER. YEAR ROUND.



**New York City High School
Debate Calendar
2014-2015**

- 10/5 - NYCUDL/Metro Hudson League Season Opener Workshop
- 11/1 - HS Tournament #1
The Metro Hudson Tournament
- 11/22 - HS Tournament #2
The Horace Mann Invitational (PF Only)
- 12/13 - HS Tournament #3
The Fried Frank Invitational
- 12/20 - HS Tournament #4
The Regis Holiday Classic
- 1/10 - HS Tournament #5
The Brooklyn Debate Invitational
- 2/21 - HS Tournament #6
The Metro Hudson Debate Blowout
- 3/20-3/23 - HS Tournament #7
The NYC High School Championships & Kirkland & Ellis National Qualifier
- 4/25 - HS Tournament #8
The Beveridge & Diamond Environmental Debate Fest!
- 5/TBA - HS Tournament #9
The Donors Choose Early Bird Tournament
- 6/TBA - HS Tournament #10
The Girls Debate Championships



**The Brown Rudnick
New York City Travel Team
Debate Calendar
2014-2015**

- 9/19-9/21 - Yale University (CT)
- 9/26-9/28 - Georgetown University (DC)
- 10/10-10/11 - Monticello (NY)
- 10/18 - NYC Invitational (NY)
- 10/24-10/26 -Capital Beltway Classic (MD)
- 10/24-25 - Manchester (MA)
- 11/22- Horace Mann Invitational (NY)
- 12/5-7 - Princeton University (NJ)
- 12/12 - Ridge High School (NJ)
- 12/20 - Regis Holiday Classic (NY)
- 1/9-1/11 - Newark Invitational (NJ)
- 1/16-1/18 - Lexington (MA)
- 1/23-1/25 - Columbia University (NY)
- 2/6-2/7 - Scarsdale Invitational (NY)
- 2/15-17 - Harvard University (MA)
- 2/15-17 - University of Pennsylvania (PA)
- 2/27 - Lakeland High School (NY)
- 4/9-4/12 - Urban Debate National Championships (University of Southern California) (CA)
- 4/11-4/13 - National Debate Coaches Association National Championships (NV)
- 6/14-20 - National Speech & Debate Association's National Championships (TBA)



New York City



New York City



New York City

Middle School Debate League Tournament Calendar 2014-2015

**9/20 - Middle School
Debate Camp!**

10/11 - Conference #1
The West Harlem
Foundation Debate
Invitational

11/8 - Conference #2
The McCarthy Dressman
Debate Invitational

12/6 - Conference #3
The Citizens Committee
Debate Invitational

1/10 - Conference #4
The Donors Choose
Invitational

2/14 - Conference #5
The Valentines Day "I Love
Debate" Invitational.

2/27-28 - Conference #6
Travel Tournament
(The Westchester Classic)

3/7-3/8 - Conference #7
The New York State Middle
School Championships

3/28 - Conference #8
The Bronx Science Battle
of the Boroughs Middle
School Tournament

4/25 - Conference #9
The Beveridge & Diamond
Environmental Debate
Fest!

5/16 - Conference #10:
The Fish & Richardson
City of Champions: New
York City Middle School
Championships

6/TBA - Conference #11:
The Girls Debate
Championships

**6/14 - The National
Middle School
Championships**
The National Speech
& Debate Association

Middle School Quality Initiative Tournament Calendar 2014-2015

10/18 - Tournament #1
@ MS 45 (Bronx)

*Topic: Do professional
athletes deserve multi-
million dollar salaries?*

1/10 - Tournament #2
@ Brooklyn Tech High
School (Brooklyn)

*Nuclear power: Our energy
future, or danger to society?*

3/28 - Tournament #3
@ Bronx High School of
Science (Bronx)

*Violence and media: are
ratings systems necessary?*

6/12 - Tournament #4
The MSQI Championships
@ Columbia University
(Manhattan)

*Should middle and high
schools use academic
tracking?*

Elementary School Debate League Tournament Calendar 2014-2015

10/11 - Tournament #1
The West Harlem
Foundation Debate
Invitational

11/7 - The Sesame Street
Debates! @ Sesame
Street!

11/8 - Conference #2
The McCarthy Dressman
Debate Invitational

12/6 - Tournament #3
The Citizens Committee
Debate Invitational

1/10 - Tournament #4
The Donors Choose
Invitational

2/7 - Tournament #5
The Valentines Day "I
Love Debate" Invitational

3/7-3/8
The New York State
Elementary School
Championships

3/28 - Tournament #6
The Bronx Science Battle
of the Boroughs


4/25 - Tournament #7
The Beveridge & Diamond
Environmental Debate
Fest!

5/9 - Tournament #8
The Elementary School
Championships @ The
New York Historical
Society

6/TBA - Tournament #9
The Girls Debate
Championships

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