

# WHY DEBATE?

"All of us have a debater in us because all of us want justice and all of us know how to stand up for ourselves" - Herbert, NYC Urban Debate League  
SIGN UP FOR THE 2016-2017 DEBATE SEASON!

7/23/16



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## [Video on why the New York City Urban Debate League debates....](#)

This week we have much to celebrate. Our theme is WHY DEBATE! First, thank you to DCTV, Sushana Dubreil and her incredible team, Erickson, Mr. Beattie, PS 161, Aubrey Semple, and our incredible debaters for an inspirational new video about the New York City Urban Debate League and why we debate! [Click here for the video!](#) Second, thank you everyone for making the Manhattan Debate Institutes at Hunter College, Silberman Graduate School and New York University possible and thank you for everyone in the coming weeks for making our Brooklyn and Queens debate institutes possible. Third, a huge shout out to all the volunteers, parents and students who are joining us monthly for our Community Meetings. We had our August meeting today, and it is just so incredible to see everyone come out to share ideas on a Saturday morning and why everyone shares a similar passion for debate. Thank you for your support. Our next meeting is September 10th at our office, so please save the date! Finally, we conclude with two quotations by two of our debaters who are featured in our new video on why they debate...

*"You are never too young to be a good debater. Good debaters can come out of anyone and anywhere. So your ability and passion for the things that you do makes you a good debater. - Daushan, NYC Urban Debate League*

*"All of us have a debater in us because all of us want justice and all of us know how to stand up for ourselves" - Herbert, NYC Urban Debate League*

**Sincerely,  
Erik Fogel, Executive Director and the NYCUDL Team**



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**Summer Debate Season**

8/8-8/12 - Brooklyn/MSQI Debate Institute  
8/22 -8/26 - [Queens Elementary Institute I \(Maspeth High School\)](#)  
8/29- 9/2 - [Queens Elementary Institute II \(Maspeth High School\)](#)  
8/22 -9/2 - [Queens MS Institute \(Maspeth HS\)](#)  
8/22-9/2 - [Queens HS Institute \(Maspeth HS\)](#)  
9/1 - [Summer DEBATE CON! \(Wall Street\)](#)  
9/2 - [Summer Debate Tournament #5 \(Maspeth HS\)](#)  
9/10 - NYCUDL Community Meetings (Students (11:00am), Parents, Alumni, Volunteers (12:00pm)) (Our office, 25 Broadway, 9th Floor)



***Donate to support our city's debaters!***  
[Click here to donate to support debate!](#)

***Schools! Join the New York City Urban Debate League!***  
[Click here for school registration!](#)

***Students! Join the New York City Urban Debate League!***  
[Click here for student registration!](#)

**NYC Debate Newsletters**

New York City Debate League Newsletter

Bronx Debate League Newsletter

Brooklyn Debate League Newsletter

Harlem Debate League Newsletter

Manhattan Debate League Newsletter

Queens Debate League Newsletter

**WHY DEBATING STILL MATTERS!**

**The Guardian, August 6th**

"The essence of free speech is that we allow people with whom we disagree to speak. Wrongheaded views will be aired. But free speech means no one gets the last word. We can - and indeed, we should - use our own right to free speech to challenge expression we think is unpleasant or wrong. To do this we need to be equipped to argue in public. Debating competitions are a fantastic way to teach this important skill to young people...." [Click here for the full article!](#)



High School Tournament Calendar



Middle School

**WHY WE DEBATE... CHANGING THE WORLD!**

Tournament Calendar



Debate League  
Websites

Bronx Debate League

Brooklyn Debate League

Harlem Debate League

Manhattan Debate  
League

Queens Debate League

## No One Thought This All-Woman's Debate Team Could Crush It, July 29th, NPR Digital Media

"One by one, before their weekly debating practice, each debater would walk to the front of the room, strike a "power pose," and say something to remind everyone in the room that she is powerful. That she is a winner.

Week after week they repeated these phrases - "I'm a debater and I'm the winner today" - willing themselves to believe that it was true. In a way, the girls were doing what their country had done: taking on a new pose, looking in the mirror and declaring themselves to be new, better and hopefully more successful." - [Click here for full article.](#)

## WHY WE DEBATE... THANKING OUR COMPETITORS

### Remembering Ross Smith, July 29th, 2009

Thank you to Ms. Sarah Spring for sharing this [post](#) in remembrance of Ross Smith who passed July 20th, 2009. Mr. Smith impacted tens of thousands of debaters including myself who had the honor to sit in a lecture at debate camp by Mr. Smith. Sarah shares a great quote from Ross on thanking our competitors in debate...

*"Thank you competitors. Every one of you, coach and debater, who face our teams and push our teams to think harder, research deeper, get outside of our narrower confines. You pose questions to our coaching, without which questions we could not learn and improve. On occasion, hopefully rare, we do not reciprocate or we fail to appreciate. When we (being human) are at our worst we might denigrate. I hope and trust not, but know that we mean not. We can't do it without you. What are the best debates you have judged or debated in? They are closely contested. They reflect a commitment to excellence. That attribute can never be one sided. We are at our worst and best when we put everything we have into a debate and come up on the short end. But who gave us the opportunity to be triumphant and feel that the win was meaningful in the first place? Our competitors. " - Ross Smith*

Ross Smith Speech at the 2003 Wake Forest Debate Tournament  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_GGmuEJp2wE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GGmuEJp2wE)

About Ross Smith  
<http://www.wfu.edu/news/release/2009.07.20.r.php>

## **WHY WE DEBATE ... VIDEO ABOUT THE NEW YORK CITY URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE**

In 2011 less than one percent of city schools and students had access to debate. We were founded to change this statistic.



Thank you to DCTV, Sushana Dubreil and her incredible team, Erickson, Mr. Beattie, PS 161, Aubrey Semple, and our incredible debaters who made this video possible. [Click here to view the video!](#)

## **DEBATE CENTERS OPEN UP IN OCTOBER! Sign Up Now!**

New York City Debate Centers meet weekdays and weekends in each of the boroughs during the Fall and Spring Semesters for drop in debate practices for 6th - 12th grade students. Our students have won local, city, regional and national tournaments. Our instructors are among the top debaters and coaches in the city. Click below to sign up now! Practices start in September and October!

Debate Center Registration  
<http://debate.nyc/programs/centers/>

## **Register Your School or Scholar for the 2016- 2017 Debate Season!**

"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 Obama, State of Schools Address

Debate is the most rigorous academic program since Ancient Greece and so the New York City Urban Debate League is committed to the mission that all schools should have a debate team and all students should have access to the best debate education opportunities.

[Click here for school registration. We provide training and anything you need to start and sustain a successful debate program.](#)

[Click here for student registration.](#)  
[Regardless of whether you have a debate team at your school, we have community debate centers where students can drop in for free debate instruction.](#)

## **MANHATTAN DEBATE INSTITUTES**

### **Hunter College and Silberman Graduate School**

Huge shout outs for our Manhattan Debate Institute students, volunteers, staff, sponsors, parents and everyone making the Manhattan Debate Institutes possible! From philosophy to computer labs to debate trips to summer tournaments - the Manhattan Debate Institutes provide summer debate opportunities for NYC youth. Thank you everyone for making possible.

## **BROOKLYN MSQI DEBATE INSTITUTE**

### **August 8th - 12th**

We partner with the NYC Department of Education for another summer of hosting an incredible teacher and student debate institute in Brooklyn at MS 50. MS 50 was recently featured on the news for bringing academic debate to an entire campus of hundreds of students. [Click here for the video!](#) "Every week, during regular classes, the whole school works on the same debate topic and studies the same

five "focus words" - academic vocabulary that is critical for high school and college-level work. Students all takes a debate class four times a week and several dozen practice and compete with the team." Thank you to MS 50 for hosting!

## **QUEENS DEBATE INSTITUTE**

### **Maspeth HS, August 22nd - September 2nd**

We partner up with Maspeth High School to continue Queens' first, largest and longest summer debate program. Our instructors include an all star staff and culminates with the final debate tournament of the summer season.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

## **HARRY POTTER BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY DEBATES!**

### **AUGUST 30TH!**

Partnering up with Teach for America for Bring Your Child to Work Day - Harry Potter Edition! :) First wizardry and Harry Potter debates that we are aware of.... More information coming soon!

## **DEBATE CON SUMMER!**

### **New York City Debate Educators Conference**

#### **Thursday, September 1st, 9am-3pm**

Debate Con is NYC Debate Educators Conference for Debate Educators and by Debate Educators. This is held four times a year (Summer, Fall, Spring, Winter). Our summer debate conference will be held after summer school ends, on Friday, September 2nd. This event is free for all debate educators.

**Debate Con Registration**

[Click here to sign up for Summer Debate Con!](#)

**Debate Con Sample Schedule**

[Click here for our last Debate Conference Workshop Schedule.](#)

## How to get involved!

*"Anyone who bemoans the state of public education need only spend a weekend at a high school speech and debate tournament to have their faith restored." - Curt Stedron (School Teacher)*

Debate since Ancient Greece is the most rigorous academic program. Our mission is every school should have a debate team and every student should have access to the best debate education opportunities. We need your support to make this possible!

**Judging Opportunities!**

[Click here to volunteer to judge a debate tournament!](#)

**Coaching Opportunities!**

[Click here to volunteer to coach at our summer debate institutes!](#)

**Start a Debate Team!**

[Click here to sign up your school!](#)

(must be affiliated with your school as teacher and/or administrator)

**Visit a Debate Center!**

[Click here to learn about our debate centers!](#)

**Donate to Support Debate!**

[Click here to donate now!](#)

*Thank you for taking the time to read our Newsletter for this week!*

**About the New York City Urban Debate League**

The New York City Urban Debate League is the largest urban debate league in the nation and only urban debate league that is year round. We impact several thousand students and over 100 schools each month by supporting debate practices every day, debate tournaments every weekend, community debate centers every week, teacher professional development conferences every month, out of state travel opportunities every month, and debate institutes all summer. We are the winner of the White House Youth Awards, which recognizes the nation's top after school programs....

*"The New York City Urban Debate League is a program that empowers underserved students while immersing them in public speaking, research techniques, civics, law and ethnic studies. Along with countless debating trophies, the program boasts years of data showing that their alums have higher grade point averages, high school graduation rates, college acceptances and number of scholarships than their peers." - Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the First Lady of the United States, and the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, honoring us with the National Arts and Humanities Award for one of the top after school programs in the nation in the arts and humanities*

[\*Click here to support our mission by donating and becoming part of the urban debate league network.\*](#)

**Sincerely,**

*The New York City Urban Debate League Team*