



HOW TO BECOME A TOP DEBATER

Jarvis Xie

 **MENTUM
LEARNING**

How to become a top debater



Jarvis Xie

Yale'26

June 17 (Friday) 7-8PM CT

How to become a top debater

Peak at Rank #1 among all LD debaters on multiple national metrics

USAMO Qualifier

USACO Platinum Qualifier

Why Learn Debate?

1. Logical Thinking
2. Critical Thinking
3. Quick Thinking
4. Rhetoric/Diction
5. Presentation Skills
6. Time Management
7. Research
8. Conflict Resolution

What is Lincoln-Douglas Debate?

In 1858, two politicians, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas, had a series of seven debates leading up to the Illinois Senate Election. These 1-on-1 debates inspired a form of high school debate known as Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

The rules of Lincoln-Douglas are as follows:

- There is a set resolution to be debated over
- The debate is between one affirmative debater and one negative debater
- Each debater is afforded 4 minutes of preparation time and 3 minutes of cross-examination time in the debate
- The speech times are to follow a 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 minute pattern

Other debate events include Public Forum and Policy, which are both 2-on-2 team debates. Lincoln-Douglas is the only individual debate event.

The Different Circuits in Lincoln-Douglas Debate

There are several different circuits (conglomerates of tournaments) that students in Lincoln-Douglas debate can compete in:

- **Local/TFA State**
 - Compete at local tournament and earn 12 state points by reaching elimination rounds to qualify to compete at the TFA State Tournament
 - Ex: Dulles High School Invitational
- **NSDA Nationals**
 - Reach late elimination rounds at the NSDA District Tournament to qualify to compete at the NSDA Nationals Tournament
- **Tournament of Champions**
 - Reach late elimination rounds at various national tournaments to earn 2 bids to qualify to compete at the Tournament of Champions
 - Largely considered the most prestigious debate tournament
 - Ex: Harvard National Forensics Tournament, Strake Jesuit Tournament

For most debaters, qualifying and performing well at the Tournament of Champions is the end goal of the debate season.

The Sad Truth About Lincoln-Douglas Debate

In high school, a significant majority of students who start debate end up either quitting or not nearly invested in the activity as when they started. This is due to a variety of factors:

- Unsupportive school team
- Lack of funding
- Poor time management

Debate is a valuable activity, but it requires significant investment.

Available Resources

High School LD Debate Wiki: <https://hslld.debatecoaches.org/>

OpenEv Wiki: <https://openev.debatecoaches.org/>

Forensics Discord: <https://discord.gg/Cm9pUgpnG7>

High School LD Debate Facebook Page: QR Code to the Right

Summer Debate Camps: [NSD](#), [TDC](#), [TDI](#), [VBI](#)

YouTube Rounds/Lessons: [DebateDrills](#), [Victory Briefs](#), [etc.](#)

Tabroom: <https://www.tabroom.com/index/index.mhtml>

Your Team: Practice together, share cases, and help each other before rounds

Yourself: Research and Practice



Specific Questions

When should students start learning debate?

How many hours a week did I spend doing debate?

How do you decide which debate event fits you best?

How do you adapt to different judges?

What do you do if your school doesn't have a debate team?

Why did I decide to do debate?

How did I manage time and extracurriculars in high school?

Q&A

Please feel free to connect with me on email (jarvixie03@gmail.com) or by text (281-779-5978).

Momentum Learning Wechat Group



All seminar recordings and slides can be found at: <https://www.momentumlearning.org/open-house>

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- ◆ **Best** contest math and coding competition (USACO) preparation classes
- ◆ **Structured curriculum** from the elementary level to the highest Olympiad Math (IMO/USAMO)
- ◆ We use **Zoom** to live-stream classes. **Recordings** are available
- ◆ Over **200** students receive **Distinguished Honor Roll** (top 1%) and **Honor Roll** (top 5%) on AMC8, including **15-20 perfect scores** each year
- ◆ **MATHCOUNTS National** individual round **winner, runner-up**, and multiple students who made **count down** (top12). Team round **National Champion** 3 years in a row
- ◆ Each year, over **260** students qualify for **AIME**, over **60** qualify for **USAMO & USAJMO**, and **4-8** qualify for MOP
- ◆ Team Sweepstake Winner for **CMIMC, HMMT, and PUMaC**
- ◆ Over **50** students qualified for USACO **Gold/Platinum** in last 2-3 years
- ◆ Trained the **2nd place** team in **National Science Bowl** and students who made **USABO Finalists** (Top 20 in the country)

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Senior Seminars

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Jarvis Xie
 Yale '26

June 17 (Friday) 7-8PM CT
 How to become a top debater

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 USAMO Qualifier
 USACO Platinum Qualifier

June 18 (Saturday) 7-8PM CT
 USACO Practice and Strategy

2-time USACO Finalist
 USAMO Qualifier
 Competitive Programming Initiative Founder



Daniel Guan
 MIT '26



Rowechen Zhong
 MIT '26

June 19 (Sunday) 7-8PM CT
 Learning to Learn: How to Master three Arts

US Physics Team '22
 Blue MOP '21
 USAMO HM '21
 USACO Platinum

June 24 (Friday) 7-8PM CT
 Science Olympiad and Social Impact

RSI Scholar
 Coca-Cola Scholar
 3-time Science Olympiad National Champion
 3-time USABO Semifinalist



Stephanie Wang
 Harvard '26



Russell Li
 Harvard '26

June 25 (Saturday) 7-8PM CT
 Crafting a Productive & Enjoyable HS Career

RSI Scholar
 5-time Scholastic National Gold/Silver Medalist
 Editor-In-Chief of School Newspaper
 Captain of Varsity Cross Country & Tennis Teams

July 2 (Saturday) 7-8PM CT
 ASK ME ANYTHING!

3-time IMO Gold Medalist
 USA IOL Team Member
 Regeneron Science Talent Search 10th Place
 2-time MATHCOUNTS champ



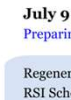
Luke Robitaille
 MIT '26



Isabella Quan
 MIT '26

July 3 (Sunday) 7-8PM CT
 Girls in Contest Math

RSI Scholar and Rickoid of the Year
 MOP Qualifier
 8-time AIME Qualifier/7-time MPFG Qualifier
 IEEE CCCW Best Paper Awardee



Amber Luo
 MIT '26

July 9 (Saturday) 7-8PM CT
 Preparing for USABO and Regeneron

Regeneron STS 3rd Place Winner
 RSI Scholar, Top 5 Paper & Presentation
 2-time USABO National Finalist
 ISEF Grand Prize Winner



Nicholas Wei
 MIT '26

July 15 (Friday) 7-8PM CT
 My Science Research Journey

ISEF Grand Prize Winner
 CSEF Project of Year
 USABO Finalist
 Paid Research Intern at Stanford

August 13 (Saturday) 7-8PM CT
 Balancing Academics and Athletics

4-time AIME/MPFG Qualifier
 Maryam Mirzakhani AMC10 Winner
 Speedo Sectionals Qualifier
 UIL Swimming District Champion



Christine Huang
 MIT '26

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 Sugar Land, TX 77479

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Thank You!