

INTRODUCING



IOWA

DEBATE *Initiative*

Making debate competition accessible to all students in Iowa

The Iowa Debate Initiative seeks to make debate competition accessible to all students in Iowa by providing:

- Access to debate instruction at no cost
- Access to ongoing coaching and mentorship at no cost
- Access to local and regional debate competitions at low cost
- Support for individuals to participate in Lincoln Douglas Debate even in schools where no team or coach currently exists

WHAT WE DO

The greatest obstacles to building debate programs at a particular school are, first, the lack of experienced coaches with the necessary time to devote to teaching debate; and, second, the lack of funds for tournament competition.

The Iowa Debate Initiative (IDI) overcomes these obstacles in a couple of simple ways.

COACHING

The Iowa Debate Initiative brings together knowledgeable coaches from around Iowa to provide debate instruction to students entering 6th through 12th grade. We provide a concise, expert 15-hour course (divided into 7 sessions) that will teach:

- Basics of argumentation
- Research skills
- Case and argument writing skills
- Speaking skills and rebuttal strategy
- Understanding of concepts and topics
- Portable debate preparation skills

Additionally, IDI will provide ongoing mentoring for students throughout the debate season to help them analyze topics, formulate and research arguments, and prepare for competitions.

TOURNAMENT COMPETITION

Debaters learn to debate by debating. Attending debate competitions is key to building critical skills. Fortunately, the Des Moines metro area provides a variety of low-cost debate competition opportunities within easy drive of the city. These include competitions in Des Moines, Indianola, West Des Moines, Johnston, and Ankeny. The entry fees for these tournaments are low and IDI will coordinate with tournament hosts to provide discounted fees where possible for Initiative students.

Debaters working with IDI will have opportunities to compete at up to seven tournaments without leaving the Des Moines area, beginning in early October and culminating in the Iowa High School Speech Association State Debate Tournament at DMACC - Ankeny in January.

The Iowa Debate Initiative is a simple four-step process:

STEP ONE

The first step is to attend one of two informational meetings. Both will be held in the training room of the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) main office, which is located at 401 Railroad Place, West Des Moines, IA 50265.

The meetings will be held on April 25 and April 26, 2017 at 7:00 pm. Both meetings will provide the same information — you need attend only one.

Both meetings are open to any interested parent, student, teacher or administrator.

STEP TWO

The second step is to attend one of two instructional sessions. The first will be held in late Spring, and the second will be held in Summer. Both sessions will include seven lessons over three weeks. Both sessions will present the same information — **students need attend only one of the two sessions.** Interested parents, teachers, or administrators are welcome to attend as well.

The instructional sessions will teach students the basics of debate, introduce them to the Fall 2017 debate topic, and help prepare them for competition. Speaking skills, research, argument writing, speaking, and rebuttal skills are among the skills that will be covered.

STEP THREE

After the instructional sessions are over, we will provide Initiative students with access to ongoing mentorship with varsity debaters and coaches. Mentorship will be provided based on the needs and availability of the students, and will include online discussions, editing of cases, research assistance, and possibly in-person practice sessions.

STEP FOUR

Compete! We will provide students with a calendar of debate opportunities in the Des Moines area, beginning in early October 2017 and concluding with the IHSSA State Debate Tournament in January 2018.

Students will be encouraged to attend as many competitions as they can. We will interface with school administrators and parents to facilitate the logistics of entering and attending the tournament. Parents or teachers may volunteer to be debate judges — like referees for debate rounds.

Sign up today at iowadebateinitiative1.eventbrite.com
or iowadebateinitiative2.eventbrite.com



If you have any questions, contact:
iowadebateinitiative@gmail.com

Keep up-to-date by following:
[facebook.com/iowadebateinitiative](https://www.facebook.com/iowadebateinitiative)

Iowa Debate Initiative is made possible by



SESSION SCHEDULES

All sessions will take place at **NSDA** 401 Railroad Place, West Des Moines and, unless otherwise noted, will run from **6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.**

SESSION ONE

Monday, May 15
Thursday, May 18
Monday, May 22
Thursday, May 25
Thursday, June 1
Monday, June 5
Thursday, June 8 - 5 pm – 8 pm

SESSION TWO

Monday, July 17
Thursday, July 20
Monday, July 24
Thursday, July 27
Monday, July 31
Tuesday, August 1
Thursday, August 3 - 5 pm – 8 pm

*Another exciting opportunity
for IDI Students...*

Sunday, July 30

Optional free full day seminar for students and judges, hosted by the National Debate Forum at Simpson College from 9 am – 3 pm (lunch included). Students who complete the IDI program will receive an automatic \$250 off 2018 NDF summer camp!



nationaldebateforum.com

