



21ST CENTURY DEBATE

A DEEPER LEARNING APPROACH TO DEBATE EDUCATION

21st Century Debate Institution - Debate Championship

Welcome to the **21st Century Debate Championship**, taking place on Friday, March 1, 2024, through Saturday, March 2, 2024. Each day there are three rounds of debate from 4 pm to 8 pm (Pacific). This will be Saturday and Sunday for those living in China/Korea. This will be a virtual event (using Zoom) open to grades 3-9 (grades 1-2 with permission). Cost: \$25/person. [[Registration & Resources](#)]

This event is meant to be a fun experience for students and an excellent volunteer opportunity for the older students as well. Everyone is welcome and some of the events are completely free. There will be prizes for the top teams, speakers, essays*, and speeches* (there will also be a “crossfire* champion” award as well).

**These events are completely free (details are contained within this event guide). :)*

We at 21st Century Debate Institute believe debate education to be a powerful means of developing a deeper learning experience for our participants. We want this to be a low-stress, fun, and meaningful opportunity for everyone. Thank you for joining us!

Zoom Information: [Later!].

Debate Events: “Public Forum Debate,” “Skills” Debate, and Crossfire Champions.

Debate Topic (NSDA): *The U.S. federal government should ban single-use plastics.* [[Research](#)]

Schedule (Online, Pacific Time):

March 1, 2024

4:00 p.m.: Round 1 (China: March 2, 8:00 a.m.)
5:15 p.m.: Round 2 (China: March 2, 9:15 a.m.)
6:30 p.m.: Round 3 (China: March 2, 10:30 a.m.)

March 2, 2024

4:00 p.m.: Round 4 (China: March 2, 8:00 a.m.)
5:30 p.m.: Top 4 (China: March 2, 9:30 a.m.)
6:45 p.m.: Finals (China: March 2, 10:45 a.m.)
8:00 p.m.: Awards (China: March 3, 12:00 p.m.)
Note: *The “Crossfire Champion” event starts at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.*

Debate Topic: *U.S. government should substantially increase its military presence in the Arctic.*

Prizes: Certificates, Medallions (1st-3rd), and Trophies (1st Place).

Volunteers: Please sign up for the event and indicate that you are a judge. At times the form may require you to describe your partner or speaking role, just mark those fields with “NA,” which means that is not applicable to you. For further clarity, you may wish to write a comment in the comments section.

For more information, please contact me:
Bill Eddy aka “Coach Bill” (billeddy@gmail.com).



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Guiding Principles of the Event:

“Thank you,” to those volunteering and judging – we deeply appreciate your support, and we hope we can count on you to help us again in the future. Being a judge requires no previous experience. All we ask is for you to be fair-minded in your decision making and that you provide objective and honest feedback. It is the job of the debaters to convince you about their arguments and ideas, so please don't feel as if you (the judge) need to do any prior research about debate or about the topic.

IMPORTANT: Please stay off the phone and give the debaters your *undivided attention*.

Three Burdens in Debate: Proof, refutation, and rejoinder. [[Rybold, 2006 \(pp 12-14\)](#)]

Note: *For a better understanding, please refer to Dr. Rybold's textbook.*

Below are some of my comments (Coach Bill):

1. **Proof:** Students are expected to have researched their arguments and ideas. Please try not to be overly critical about how the student cites their sources. If a student is explaining ideas with how and why (using “because”) and not just saying ‘what’ plastics do, then that student should be credited with having met their proof burden.
2. **Rebuttal:** Students are expected to disagree with each of their opponent's arguments. This should be well-organized, contain proof (as above), and be spoken with kindness and respect. ex. They said, we say, because, & therefore.
3. **Rejoinder:** For “skills” debate, we will add more formalized opportunities for rejoinders later. For now, we ask debaters to accomplish this through their questions and answers - particularly during the “grand crossfire”. In Public Forum, Summary and Final Focus should have the rejoinders.

Three Modes of Persuasion (Aristotle): Logos, Pathos, and Ethos. [[Atlas 101](#)]

1. **Logos:** Each speech is expected to have an introduction, at least one argument, and a simple conclusion. Was the speech organized? Could you understand their explanations? Does the speech make sense? Please give positive encouragement about this.
2. **Pathos:** Students were asked to engage the listener by speaking in a convincing manner. Did the speaker look and sound like they were concerned about the topic? Did they speak with passion and/or enthusiasm in their speaking mannerisms?
3. **Ethos:** Students are expected to speak to you and not just read to you – there is a difference. Can you tell? Are they looking into the camera (or at least in its direction)? Did they speak with confidence (facial expressions, body posture, smooth gestures)? Did they use evidence from credible sources? There are many things a speaker can do to gain credibility with you.

Note: *Please don't reward speakers who read from 'scripts' – technically, there is no penalty for it. They are allowed to read from notes; however they should also try to have some eye contact.*

Making the Judging Decisions:

1. **Speaker Rankings:** Each speaker is ranked relative to the others (1-4).
2. **Speaker Points:** Each speaker is given “speaker” points indicating how well they spoke and how well they debated. **(Please... no ties! “.5” = a tie breaker!).**
 - a. 29.5 to 30 = outstanding, nearly perfect!
 - b. 28.5 to 29 = excellent
 - c. 27.5 to 28 = above average
 - d. 26.0 to 27 = average (*Please try not to give anyone a “below average” score.*)**NOTE:** “Skills” Debate scores each of the skills from 1-10 (*Pls... nothing below 6!*) & ties are okay.
3. **Winning Team:** Which team did the better debating? Please don't choose a side because you personally agree with it. Trust yourself (no ties!). **Please be kind, objective, and fair-minded!** 😊



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The Debate Events

“Skills” Debate Format: Coin Flip for *Their Side* or *Speaking First/Second*. [[Form: “Skills” Ballot](#)]

1. **Arguments:** Each speaker presents one argument with some proof (90 sec).
Each speaker should present a unique argument (not the same). Team A is first, then Team B.
2. **Preparation Time:** Both teams prepare their rebuttals at the same time (2 min).
IMPORTANT: For some students, two minutes may not be enough time. As a kindness to them, you could start the rebuttals with students who are ready and skip those who are not yet ready. However, we cannot spend too much time preparing, so eventually you may have to insist that they do their best with what they have prepared.
3. **Rebuttals:** Each speaker refutes one argument using some proof (90 sec).
IMPORTANT: To earn full credit, the speakers must refute one of the arguments made by the opposing team and not just read a bunch of random rebuttals. Prewritten rebuttals that match the anticipated arguments are encouraged. Each speaker is expected to refute a different argument than their partner.
4. **Grand Crossfire:** Both teams argue in the grand crossfire style (3 min).
For those not familiar with the crossfire style of debating, it is a back-and-forth style of arguing. They match their wits and research against that of the opposing team. Try not to allow things to become aggressive during the crossfire – part of their score is based on how *kind & respectful* they are – please don't reward overly assertive behavior... it is the role of the judge to keep things calm and civil.
5. **Judge Feedback:** Please give simple feedback to each team (5 min).
Please do not reveal the winner of the round or the speaking scores. This will be revealed later.
IMPORTANT: Please check the time and adjust the amount of oral feedback to the schedule.

One last thing... try keeping your feedback brief but detailed enough to show that you were interested and please keep it positive (use your best judgment).

“Public Forum” Debate Format: Coin Flip determines *Side* or *Speaking Order*. [[Form: PF Ballot](#)]

1. **Speech Times:** First Speakers (4 min), Crossfire (3 min), Second Speakers (4 min), Crossfire (3 min), First Speakers (3 min), Grand Crossfire (3 min), & Second Speakers (2 min).
2. **Number of Rounds:** 4 preliminary rounds, and two elimination rounds (for the top 4 teams).
3. **Additional Information:** NSDA Guidelines, pp. 86-89 [[NSDA Public Forum Guidelines \(PDF\)](#)].

“Crossfire Champions” Format: A two-minute crossfire debate! [[Form: Crossfire Ballot](#)]

1. **Choose Captains...** If nobody volunteers to be captain, or if more than two people volunteers, then they are to be chosen at random... pls roll a die!
2. **Coin Toss...** The captain who wins the toss gets to choose either... first pick among available partners or they can pick the side.
3. **Partners are Picked...** The captains both choose a partner.
4. **Sides are Picked...** The “side” captain chooses their side.
5. **Crossfire Begins...** The team that didn't choose the side speaks first.

Judges Give Feedback... speak to the entire group if possible; no individual feedback - to save time.



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Persuasive Essay Writing Contest: Banning Single-Use Plastics

About the Event:

This contest invites students in Grades 3-12 to write a persuasive essay on the importance of banning single-use plastics. Essays should be two to three pages long and aim to persuade readers by presenting clear arguments and knowledge on the topic. Please do not submit your debate case as an essay, yet you can use the exact same outline from your debate case (if it is original) and write the essay from it!

Important: *Arguments are not limited to just the environment, yet the environment should not be ignored.*

Judging Criteria:

1. Clear & Persuasive Writing: Essays should be well-organized and present arguments in a clear, accurate, and precise manner. Use of emotional appeals (or showing concern) is encouraged.
2. Correct Use of Grammar: Use of correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar is essential.
3. Knowledge of the Topic: Demonstrate understanding of the issues surrounding single-use plastics and their environmental impact.
4. Strength of the Arguments: Support your viewpoint with facts, examples, and logical reasoning.

Rules:

1. Eligibility: Open to students from Grade 3 to Grade 12.
2. Essay Length: Essays must be between 2 to 3 pages.
3. Font: Please limit to Ariel or Times New Roman (or similar) - size 10-12.
4. Originality: This must be the original work of the student. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.
5. Submission Deadline: All essays must be submitted by February 29th.

How to Enter:

Submit your essay by the deadline to the designated email address or website provided by your teacher or contest organizer. Ensure your full name, grade, and school are included on the first page of your submission. *Send submissions to...* billeddy@gmail.com.

Purpose of the Event:

The goal of this contest is to engage the participant's mind in environmental conservation efforts, specifically focusing on the issue of single-use plastics. This offers a platform for students to express their views and suggest solutions through persuasive writing. We encourage participants to research, reflect, and articulate compelling arguments on why banning single-use plastics is crucial for our environment.



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Public Speaking Contest: Banning Single-Use Plastics

About the Event:

In an effort to inspire action and raise awareness about environmental issues, we are launching a Speech Contest focused on the advocacy against single-use plastics. This contest is open to students in Grades 3-12, inviting them to prepare and submit a recorded persuasive speech that highlights the importance of banning single-use plastics for environmental conservation.

Important: *Arguments are not limited to just the environment, yet the environment should not be ignored.*

Judging Criteria:

1. Clear & Persuasive Speaking: Speeches should be well-organized and present arguments in a clear, accurate and precise manner.
2. Powerful Emotional Appeal: Use emotions to make your speech powerful and get people to act on banning single-use plastics. Speak with concern about the topic and its impacts.
3. Knowledge of the Topic: Demonstrate understanding of the issues surrounding single-use plastics and their environmental impact.
4. Strength of the Arguments: Support your viewpoint with facts, examples, and logical reasoning.

Rules:

1. Participant Grades: The contest is open to students from Grade 3 to Grade 12.
2. Speech Length: Speeches must be between 2 to 3 minutes.
3. Format: Submit your speech as a video recording. Ensure the audio is clear and the image is clear.
4. Originality: This must be the original work of the student. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.
5. Submission Deadline: All recordings must be uploaded by February 29th via the link provided by your school or contest organizer.

How to Enter:

Participants will receive a link to upload their speech recording. When submitting, please include your full name, grade, and school in the file name or on the submission form to ensure that your entry is correctly categorized. For those living outside the United States, please send the file using "WeTransfer".

Purpose of the Event:

This event encourages students to use their voice for environmental advocacy, focusing on the critical issue of single-use plastics. Unlike debate speeches that are structured for a debate setting, these persuasive speeches should aim to inform, engage, and convince the audience on a personal level, emphasizing the speaker's passion and concern for the topic.

We look forward to hearing powerful and persuasive speeches that not only demonstrate excellent speaking skills but also a deep commitment to environmental issues. This is an opportunity to influence others and contribute to a larger conversation about sustainability and environmental responsibility. Good luck to all participants!

Good luck to everyone!