

# 2017-2018 program manual

Elementary School



Developing Critical Thinkers  
for a Critical Time.



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## Welcome

Welcome to the Atlanta Urban Debate League family! Along with the students' involvement, your commitment to debate is absolutely crucial to our program's success and continued growth. We are excited to have you help with us provide the power of debate to countless young debaters.

It is through your assistance that we, the Atlanta Urban Debate League, are able to offer our participants many benefits. Thanks to your efforts, students gain opportunities to improve their academic performance by having an avenue through which to challenge themselves in terms of literacy, critical thinking, communication skills, and decision making skills. Needless to say, gaining and practicing these skills will better equip students for their future lives inside and outside the world of academia.

Studies show across the board that student participation in debate helps significantly with earning admissions to colleges and universities. Practicing these necessary skills also allows participants to be better prepared for several career paths including medicine, education, government, corporate sector, law, and business entrepreneurship. Ultimately, we aim to give our children the best opportunities possible for their growth and for their futures. Your continued support of debate helps give these chances to well-deserved students.

Sincerely,

The Atlanta Urban Debate League

## Benefits of Membership

### Membership in the AUDL includes:

- **Teaching Videos and Materials**

We have a tremendous amount of materials and videos that are useful for beginners and experienced debaters, such as a Policy Debate Manual and demo debates.

- **Entries to Tournaments**

Member schools may participate in all of the five tournaments that take place September through March. Our focus is on giving as many students as possible access to the benefit of debate, critical thinking, critical listening, and writing. Your school's membership affords your students this opportunity.

- **Awards and Recognition**

At each tournament, we present a host of awards. There are individual, team, sweepstakes, coaches, and community awards presented. Students receive medals and certificates based on their performance.

- **Critiqued Debates**

At each tournament, students have an opportunity to participate in up to three debates (both affirmative and negative), and at the conclusion of each debate the student will receive constructive comments on their performance. This translates to students receiving several hours of critical reading, writing, and oral communication feedback per tournament.

- **Tournament Results and Ballots**

We have a professionally trained group of tab room personnel who input the data and run the computer program. After each tournament, schools receive copies of ballots or a digital copy of their results for their records.

- **Evidence Packets**

A compilation of templates and materials will be provided online so your students can effectively debate in the league's tournaments.

- **On-Site Support and Consultation**

Our nationally recognized group of educators will provide consultation as availability permits on all aspects of debate instruction through onsite visits and/or other online communication.

- **The Debate Center**

The purpose of the Debate Center is to supplement debate training for teams in the league. The Debate Center also encourages learning related to skills necessary for success in a college environment. Every other week, Georgia State University co-sponsors the Debate Center with Emory University and volunteer instructors facilitate learning in classrooms.

- **Atlanta Urban Debate Institute**

This one-week workshop is held in the summer on the Georgia State campus and provides both teachers and students the opportunity to get a jumpstart on the upcoming debate topic. Breakfast, lunch, and a snack are provided. Students receive instruction from Emory and Georgia State University debate coaches and debaters. Opportunities for full and partial scholarships are available each spring.



## Guidelines for Membership

### School Sponsorship

Debate teams must be officially sponsored by a school and school staff member. In addition, teams attending tournaments must have administrative and parental consent. Tournaments are scheduled on Fridays; therefore field trip arrangements must be made in advance. If you are looking to start a debate team at another school, contact a staff member and they will be more than willing to assist you in the process.



### Membership Dues

For over 30 years, the league has been providing a high quality, rigorous debate education program at an affordable rate. The cost of membership is \$1,000 and covers the range of benefits outlined above. The flat rate fee will not be prorated based on participation.

The fee can be mailed to:

Glenn Pelham Foundation for Debate Education  
c/o Atlanta Urban Debate League  
P.O. Box 15087  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Or paid online at <http://www.atlantadebate.org/payment/>

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Christy Bradley at [cbradley@atlantadebate.org](mailto:cbradley@atlantadebate.org).

# Tournaments Procedures and Rules

## Topic Resolution

Resolution: Schools should invest more in providing healthier meals than in physical education to promote overall student and community well-being.

## Schedule

All tournaments will take place at Georgia State University.

1. **September 29, 2017**

2. **November 10, 2017**

3. **February 2, 2018**

4. **March 9, 2018**

5. **May 11, 2018**

## Pre-Registration

Entries must be entered on SpeechWire by 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before a tournament. Instructions on how to use SpeechWire are available online.

## Tournament Day Schedule

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 10:00 am         | Schools Arrive and Register/Judge Training begins |
| 10:15 am         | Opening Ceremonies                                |
| 10:30 am         | Round 1 ( <i>Snack distributed after</i> )        |
| 11:15 am         | Round 2   |
| 12:00 pm         | Round 3   |
| 12:45 to 1:30 pm | Lunch and Awards                                  |
| 1:30 p.m.        | Departure   |

All times are approximate. Please allow for flexibility to the schedule to account for unforeseen circumstances.

Running late the morning of a tournament? Call Christy or Lauren at (678) 902-2835.\*

***\*for use ONLY on the morning of the tournament***

## Division Guidelines

### Each team has:

- A 2- minute constructive speech
- A 1- minute cross examination
- A 2- minute refutation speech
- A 2- minute rebuttal speech
- 5 minutes preparation time

### Judges' Training

Judges' training will be offered before Round I of every tournament. All judges must be trained at least once. The training focuses on the basics of judging debate: listening to arguments, using a ballot, making a decision. There are also judge training resources on the Atlanta Urban Debate League website ([www.atlantadebate.org](http://www.atlantadebate.org)) for individuals who are unable to attend the morning judge training session or would like to review the materials on their own.

### Evidence Usage

One critical part of debating is the effective use of evidence to prove your point(s). The AUDL provides a comprehensive evidence packet for all students to use. This helps ensure all students have a high quality set of materials for debates and an effective model to help guide their own research and argument construction.

### Judging Requirements

For the 2017-2018 season, the required number of judges per school will be calculated by rounds based on the number of registered teams. The judging obligation is 1 judge for every 2 teams (if possible, we will extend this to 3 teams).

## Contact Us

### James Roland

**Executive Director**

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### Christy Bradley

**For SpeechWire and tournament registration questions**

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### Lauren Jacob

**For more information or questions on league programs**

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### Lydia Smith

**For alumni outreach information or questions**

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### Erik Mathis

**For more information regarding Debate Ambassadors**

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## Atlanta Urban Debate League

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