

2017-2018 program manual

Middle School



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Welcome

Coaches,

Welcome to the Atlanta Urban Debate League family! Thank you in advance for your desire, dedication, and determination. 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 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 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 most importantly, 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. By supporting debate, you are advocating for student access to higher education opportunities. 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, as coaches, we aim to give our students 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 AUDL Family

Benefits of Membership

Membership in the AUDL includes:

- **Teaching Videos and Materials**

We have a wide variety of instructional activities and videos that are useful for all skills levels. In addition, we provide opportunities for coaches through professional development.

- **Entry to Tournaments**

Most tournaments outside of the league charge a fee for *each person* or team you bring to the tournament. This can get costly, so the school membership fee eliminates this concern. Member schools may participate in a one-day tournament each month from September through March. Our focus is on giving *as many* students as possible 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, coach, and community awards presented. Students receive medals and certificates in respect to their performance.

- **Critiqued Debates**

At each tournament, students have an opportunity to participate in four debates (both affirmative and negative). At the conclusion of each debate, the student will receive constructive comments on their performance.

- **Tournament Results and Ballots**

We have a professionally trained group of tab room personnel who coordinate tabulation systems for performance and results. After each tournament, schools will receive copies of ballots (either hardcopy or digitally).

- **Evidence Packets**

A host of templates and materials will be provided online so your students can effectively debate in the league's tournaments. The staff has intentionally compiled quality research that serves as year-long debate content with respect to skill and experience level for each division.

- **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, Skype, and/or other online communication.

- **The Debate Center**

The purpose of the Debate Center is to supplement debate training for middle school and high school debaters after school. The Debate Center also encourages learning related to skills necessary for success in a college environment. Georgia State University partners with Emory University and selected debate coaches to deliver this instruction. Transportation is not provided, but the center is conveniently located on the GSU campus. The program features debate training, teacher training, on-line research training, college bridge programming.

- **Atlanta Urban Debate Institute**

This one-week workshop is held in the summer on the Georgia State University 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.

- **Outreach Day**

The purpose of Outreach Day is to expose students to the campus experience and to cultivate post high school opportunities. Engaging students in the college path early on allows students time to develop the identity of a student who can and will pursue higher education. The Atlanta Urban Debate League is open to hosting educational visits of member schools to the Emory University campus.

Membership Fees

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.

Tournaments Procedures and Rules

Topic Resolution

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its funding and/or regulation of elementary and/or secondary education in the United States.

Schedule

The AUDL staff will inform you of your school's track, and the schedule will be available online. For the most up-to-date tournament schedule, please visit www.atlantadebate.org/tournament-schedule

Pre-Registration

Entries must be entered on SpeechWire by 5:00 p.m. the Wednesday before a tournament. Instructions on how to use SpeechWire are available online: <http://www.atlantadebate.org/tournament-and-debate-resources/registration-for-tournaments/>

Tournament Day Schedule

8:15 am	Schools Arrive and Confirm Register
8:30 am	Registration Deadline <i>Schools not registered forfeit Rd. 1</i>
8:45 am	Judge Training/Debaters Prep
9:30 am-12:00 p.m.	Round 1 & Round 2,
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 to 3:00 pm	Round 3 & Round 4
3:30/4 p.m.	Awards Begin

Tournaments typically end between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. All times are approximate. Please allow for flexibility to the schedule to account for unforeseen circumstances.

Running late the morning of a tournament? Call us at 678-902-2835* to let us know!

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

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 2 rounds of judging for each (1) team or so/o debater registered. The maximum number of rounds an individual can judge during a tournament is 4 rounds.

You can use this equation when calculating the number of judges your school needs to provide:
_____ Team(s) Registered x 2 Rounds = _____ Rounds of Judging Needed for Your School

You can enter in as many volunteers as needed to cover your judging requirement (you can exceed your requirement of course!) The minimum number of rounds an individual can cover is 1 round of judging and the maximum an individual can cover is 4 rounds.

For example, if a debate tournament has 100 teams registered there will be 50 debates per round and 50 judges needed per round (100 teams + 2 teams per debate round = 50 debates per round). Each AUDL debate tournament has 4 debate rounds and therefore 200 debate rounds in total (50 debates per round x 4 rounds per tournament = 200 total debate rounds per tournament). If a school registers 4 debate teams for this tournament, they will need to provide 8 rounds of judging (4 debate teams x 2 rounds of judging per team = 8 rounds of judging total).

We are hoping that requiring a number of rounds to be covered for each school instead of a number of full-commitment judges will make it easier for you to ask alumni, parents, and volunteers to judge at tournaments. Instead of asking an individual to judge all day, you can ask people to volunteer their time by the number of rounds they can commit to during a tournament. Asking a volunteer to commit to one round of judging (45-60 minutes) is far less daunting than asking her/him to give up an entire Saturday. It should be stressed that when you are asking for people to judge at tournaments that you try to spread your schools judges by time periods throughout the day to ensure the afternoon debate rounds have available judges.

Judges' Training

Judges' training will be offered before Round 1 of every tournament in two separate tracks – a **Beginner Track** and an **Intermediate/Advanced Track**. The Beginner track is for volunteers who want to learn about the basics of judging debate. The Intermediate/Advanced Track is for volunteers who have some debate judging experience but wish to have a more thorough understanding of debate but wish to judge higher-level debates. *Anyone who has sat through the beginner track is highly encouraged to attend the intermediate/advanced training each time they judge.*

There are also judge training resources on the Atlanta Urban Debate League website <http://www.atlantadebate.org/information-for-judges/> for individuals who are unable to attend the morning judge training session or would like to review the materials on their own.

Division Guidelines

Guideline Summary

All teams:

- 5 minutes of prep time

Novice Division (first year debaters)

- ONLY for first year debaters.
- Debaters with one or more years of experience cannot debate in this division, even if their partners are beginners.
- Novice debaters are required to use the packet of evidence and templates from the AUDL. Absolutely no new carded evidence will be allowed in the novice division aside from what is provided by the league.

Junior Varsity (1-2 years experience)

- Permitted evidence is limited to the files and content posted on website for JV.

Varsity Division (advanced level)

- Students in this division are limited to the plan text and arguments designated by the AUDL that are also found on the website for varsity. Varsity debaters are welcome to use additional *research* for their arguments, as long as the research follows the designated arguments (ex: affs, disads, cp, etc).

*** If you have a pairing involving students from different divisions, please place them in the higher of the two divisions.**

Time Limits

Novice and JV

4- minute constructives
2- minute cross examination
2- minute rebuttals
5 minutes preparation time

Varsity

5- minute constructives
2- minute cross examination
3- minute rebuttals
5 minutes preparation time

Evidence Usage

One critical part of debating is the effective use of evidence to prove your point(s). The AUDL provides a rigorous evidence packet for all students to use in the middle school novice, JV, and varsity divisions. 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.

Novice and Junior Varsity Divisions

- Students will have the opportunity to use the resources available in the packet - along with their own knowledge, experiences, and opinions - to construct original constructive speeches on both sides of the resolution. This will also aid them in having more ownership of their rebuttals, too.
- To help beginning students construct speeches, the evidence packet will include templates for

constructing a IAC, INC, and other potential arguments. The template will allow students some flexibility, but enough structure as well to ensure student presentations are educational. To ensure all students can debate from day one, the packet will also include some short, pre-written arguments (i.e. IAC) for any students preferring to use the pre-written arguments.

- Students and coaches may not modify the plan texts. Keeping the plan texts the same helps to ensure clash. **Please ensure that debaters always read the plan text and a I AC.**
- If any argument becomes obsolete or significantly non-unique (untimely/irrelevant), the AUDL will release a new argument in a timely fashion to take its place, if needed.
- Throughout the year, the AUDL will provide new arguments and evidence updates.
- All of the materials will be posted to the website for your convenience. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Any other issues concerning research and/or evidence usage not covered here will be resolved at the discretion of the AUDL staff.

Varsity Division

- This year, the AUDL is utilizing a cross-section of evidence from the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association (GFCA), National Association of Urban Debate Leagues (NAUDL), and the Barkley Forum at Emory University to provide a rigorous and educational evidence packet for the varsity division debaters to use at AUDL sponsored tournaments throughout the year.
- The packet is a resource; it DOES NOT replace a debater's need to think for him or herself.
- Students or coaches may not modify the plan texts.
- Students will be allowed to include independent research in their rounds that supports the current arguments as designated by the AUDL.
- An argument is defined as scenarios, disadvantages, advantages, and affirmatives and other off-case strategies not provided by AUDL.
- Research should follow the format of the evidence in the packet:
 - Tag (Brief Summary)
 - Cite (Who wrote it, date, source, etc.)
 - Card (The section of the article you found useful – at least a paragraph in length)
- If any argument becomes obsolete or significantly non-unique, the AUDL will release a new argument in a timely fashion to take its place, if needed.
- Throughout the year, the AUDL will provide (online) new arguments and evidence updates to enhance the debate experience.
- All of the materials will be posted to the website for your convenience. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Any other issues concerning research and/or evidence usage not covered here will be resolved at the discretion of the AUDL staff.

Division Promotions

Novice to JV→ Place in top 15 teams, two times

JV to Varsity→ Place in top 10 teams, three times

If students want to be promoted prior to the recommended guidelines, they are absolutely welcome to do so at their coach's discretion.

Electronics Usage

In order to provide clarity and promote a productive educational environment for all students involved with the Atlanta Urban Debate League (AUDL) we have developed the following expectations to govern use of electronics during debate rounds.

1. Students are allowed to use laptops and other electronic devices as a means to store and/or read materials from the evidence packet(s) provided by the Atlanta Urban Debate League. Caution: *WIFI is not always available at tournaments, so download your files prior to tournament day.*
2. When requested, students using laptops or other electronic devices should provide the page number and/or any other useful information to the judge and competitors in the debate trying to determine what information is being used.
3. Only varsity debaters are allowed to research online during a debate round. Online activity should cease during the judge's oral critique of the round.
4. The AUDL, host school, and other partners of the AUDL ARE NOT to be held liable for the theft, loss, damage, and/or use of anyone's electronic device during the debate event. This applies to all students, teachers, parents, observers, and members of the community.
5. Any and all other issues surrounding the issues described above and others that may arise will be resolved at the discretion and advisement of the AUDL tournament directors.

Contact Us

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