



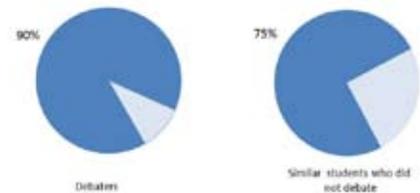
The Urban Debate Difference

Through independent peer-reviewed research we know that urban debate prepares students to succeed in school and in life.

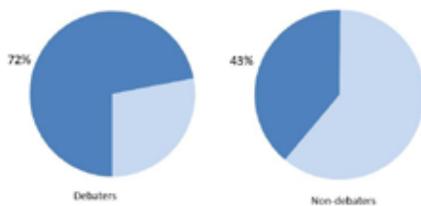
90% of urban debaters graduate on time.

Students in urban public schools have little more than a fifty percent chance of graduating from high school. Urban debate keeps these students in school. It teaches them that, with effort, they can succeed, and it ignites their passion for learning. The results are dramatic. Urban debaters are 3.1 times more likely to graduate than non-debaters. Ninety-percent of urban debaters graduate on time, compared to only seventy-five percent of similar students who do not debate.

Graduation Rates



Graduation Rates of Highest Risk Students



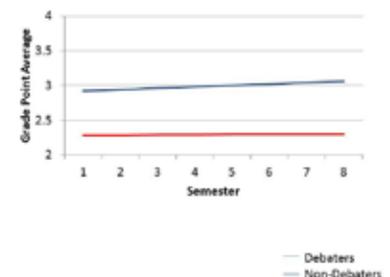
72% of urban debaters with the highest risk of dropping out graduate on time.

For the students who are most at-risk of dropping out, the statistics are bleak. Only forty-three percent graduate on time. But seventy-two percent of the urban debaters in this same group graduate. Urban debate teaches these students that, with effort, they can succeed, and it ignites their passion for learning.

Each semester that a student debates, his/her grades improve.

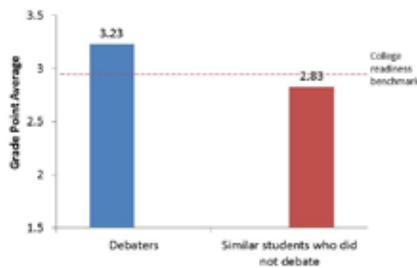
While urban debaters enter high school with higher GPA's on average than non-debaters, their grades improve steadily during high school, in contrast to non-debaters, whose grades remain flat. Urban debaters earn an average GPA of 2.92 at the end of their first semester in high school and gain .02 units in cumulative GPA for each semester that they debate. By the spring of 12th grade, they have an average GPA of 3.06. Non-debaters earn a lower GPA in their first semester of high school, an average of 2.23. They complete high school with an average GPA of 2.30, substantially unchanged.

Improvement in GPA



At graduation, the average GPA of an urban debater is 3.23, significantly above the college readiness benchmark.

GPA for High School Graduates



According to previous research, a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is a key indicator of college readiness. Among those who graduate, urban debaters complete high school with a cumulative GPA of 3.23, significantly above the college readiness benchmark. Non-debaters complete high school with a GPA of only 2.83, significantly below the benchmark.

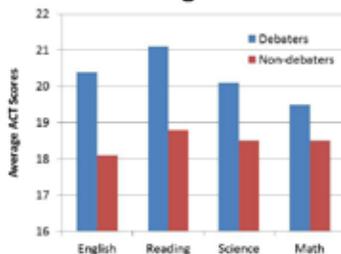
Debaters are more likely to test as college ready.

In comparison to similar students who did not debate, urban debaters earn higher test scores on standardized tests in English, Reading, Science and Math. Debaters are also significantly more likely than non-debaters to test as college-ready in all four of these subjects.

Debaters Are More Likely to Test as College-Ready



Debaters earn higher test scores.



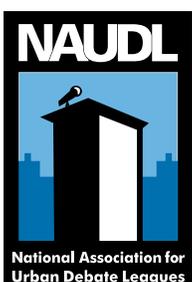
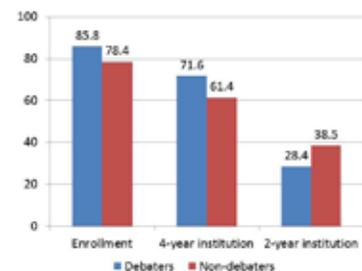
After graduating from high school, 86% percent of urban debaters enroll in college.

After high school graduation, eighty-six percent of urban debaters attend college. Among similar students who do not debate, only seventy-eight percent attend college. Urban debaters are eighty-nine percent more likely than non-debaters to choose a four-year college or university. This is significant, because a student who enrolls at a four-year college or university is much more likely to graduate than one who attends a two-year college.

Urban debaters are 80% more likely to graduate from college.

Urban debaters enter college prepared to succeed. Through debate they learn the critical thinking and communications skills that are essential for college success. Urban debaters are more likely to test as college ready in English (15% more likely), Reading (15% more likely), Science (27% more likely), and Math (10% more likely).

College Enrollment



Participating in a policy debate program and academic achievement among at-risk adolescents in an urban public school district: 1997–2007, *Journal of Adolescence*, Oct. 2012.
 Impact of participating in a policy debate program on academic achievement: Evidence from the Chicago Urban Debate League, *Educational Research and Reviews*, Sep. 2011.
 New Preliminary Findings from the Chicago Debate League Study Presentation by Dr. Briana Mezuk, PhD and Susannah Anderson, MPH, April 19, 2013.

National Association for Urban Debate Leagues

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