

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE (GR. 4-6 & 7+)

Schedule

6/12- 7/16 Mon, Wed, Fri 5:00PM-6:45PM. (Gr7+)

6/12- 7/16 Tue, Thurs, Sat. 5:00PM-6:45PM. (Gr4-6)

Course Description

Congressional Debate is a mock parliamentary event in which 15-20 students discuss political and economic events. Currently, Congressional Debate is growing rapidly in the United States with tournaments being held by top Universities including: Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, New York University, Berkeley and so on. These national competitions create lifelong benefits in the form of soft skills and networking as students meet with peers from all over the country who love debate.

In this course, students will use Congressional Debate to build both skills and confidence in public speaking. During the course, students will learn how to give speeches that stand out while simultaneously developing communication skills that emphasize assertiveness and likeability.

There are two classes offered. One is designed for younger students from Gr.4 to Gr.6 and another is designed for middle school students and high school freshmen. Both classes are suitable to students who want to learn congressional debate or further develop debate or communication skills. In the 30-hour class:

1. Students will learn research skills to obtain information quickly through reading while thinking critically and deeply about information. Students will then learn to organize this information into a cohesive argument.
2. Students will learn how to write a speech that will stand out and attract the attention of the audience.
3. Students will learn delivery skills including gesturing and vocal intonation.
4. Students will experience a combination of lectures, presentations, and competition exercises to prepare students for future debate competitions.

5. Students will develop presentation skills that can be applied to career development and college applications in the future.

6. Students will be prepared to compete in Debate tournaments. These include the Illinois Congressional Debate Association, the Illinois High School Association, and the National Speech and Debate Association.

7. At the end of the training camp, mock legislative competitions will be held.

About Instructor

Zachary Xi is currently in the Stanford University Debate Team. He is a graduate from Naperville North High School and was the school's debate captain. He had attended many national and state congressional debate events and won multiple national debate tournaments. Zachary hosted several debate camps in the last couple years, which was widely welcomed. Many students started learning debate from his camp and became the key players in their high school Debate Team.

Nicholas Chen is currently a Senior at James B. Conant High School. He is the 2021 Illinois Congressional Debate State Champion and has made final round appearances at the Yale and Stanford Debate tournaments. Nick has worked as a coach at multiple debate camps and has worked extensively with students as his school's debate captain. Nick is excited to coach and empower student voices.