**Experienced Debater FAQ**

***What is the NYU CEDA policy debate?*** CEDA stands for Cross Examination Debate Association. CEDA is the largest, evidenced-based intercollegiate debate organization in the world. Policy debate requires an affirmative to advocate an action on an issue of current controversy and defend its advantages against the negative team. Schools send numerous pairs of students to tournaments to debate against pairs of students from other schools on a topic voted on by all the colleges annually.

***Are there any special advantages to being on the debate team?*** Yes. The list is considerable:

**SKILLS**: Debate teaches you problem solving, critical thinking, research skills and information filtering. You can use it to become more persuasive through rebuttals, more insightful through cross-ex and more reflective through evaluating evidence. Over the last six years, the team GPA has averaged 3.55.

**CASH:** The team covers your registration, accommodations and travel. Essentially, NYU pays thousands for you to travel, see the country, and meet some of the smartest college students around. Team members have the inside track to win a share of **$37,000 of tuition awards available** in the Global Debates.

**RECOGNITION**: The team will produce media releases announcing your accomplishments and send those directly to your dean, your parents and even graduate school admissions offices if you like. We have a direct line to long time debate supporter and President Emeritus Sexton. If you have over 60 credits, you can be named a National Debate Scholar. Finally, you have a chance to win TWO national championships and be named to the Debate All-American squad.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**: We work with the law firm Brewer Attorneys & Counselors to host the International Public Policy Forum (IPPF), a competition for high school students in 42 states and 30 countries. Students serve as ambassadors, judges, guides and other key roles during the prestigious event. Separately, our debaters will also do demo debates and public debates on campus, help out area middle school and high school debate programs and work with international programs on a case-by-case basis.

***How many tournaments do you attend?*** There are 21 competitions on the calendar for the year (11 regional, 10 national). However, we only expect active members to attend 3-4 tournaments in the fall and another 3-4 tournaments in the spring. **IF YOU COMMIT TO A TOURNAMENT, YOU MUST GO.** The entire annual schedule is available to committed team members on our Dropbox.

***How do we get to the tournament?*** Depending on the start time, the squad leaves together on Friday morning or Friday evening and travels to the tournament. For East coast tournaments, we travel by bus, car or van. For national tournaments, we fly. We stay until our judging commitments are fulfilled, our last team is eliminated or we win the tournament on Sunday and return home late Sunday evening. **NYU pays all your travel expenses and for shared lodging.**

***How does a college debate tournament work?*** A tournament is held on a weekend in either a 3-day format (Fri-Sun, Sat-Mon.) or 2-day format (Sat-Sun). Tournaments charge fees ranging from $100-$350/per two person team to compete. Once you sign up, NYU will pay these fees. Tournaments are organized into divisions: open (very experienced debaters), junior varsity (debaters with extensive high school experience or some college experience), and novice (debaters with minimal experience). .

**Experienced Debater FAQ-2016/2017 Season**

***What topic are we debating?*** The topic area is emissions. This means we will be debating whether “the United States should establish an energy policy to combat climate change.”

***That’s a lot of issues. How do we prepare to compete against other teams?*** Already, the returning team members and coaches have prepared lots of evidence as well as strategies for all the major topic approaches. Your job is to focus on learning HOW to debate in college, contribute to organizing the evidence and familiarize themselves with the material. Once that’s complete, the rest of the semester is spent fine tuning those arguments and preparing strategies against specific positions developed by our opponents.

***How do I get paired with a partner?*** Most interview with other experienced debaters and choose partners. Also, you can bring a friend and become partners or be partnered by the coaches if all else fails.

***What would be my time commitment to be on the debate team?*** The key is to work smart and be reliable so the whole team advances and no one is overburdened. For a debater who wants to win, the time commitment for September & October during the two weeks leading up to tournaments looks like this:

**2 hours** General Meeting on Wednesdays at 8:30pm (30 minutes admin, 1 hr 30 min drills/practice)

**3 hours** Weekend workshop (three hours on Saturday or Sunday afternoon)

**2-4 hours** Evidence Assignments consisting of either cutting, updating, or wiki mining along with formatting, indexing, or intelligence gathering

**2-4 hours** Learning specific arguments with your partner, private coaching sessions

**9-13 hours** **total**

For **non-tournament weeks** in September & October, the time commitment looks like this:

**1/2 hour** General Meeting on Wednesdays at 8:30pm (30 minutes admin)

**1 hour** Evidence assignments consisting of either cutting or updating along with formatting and indexing

**1-2 hours** Private coaching sessions to review ballots, revise strategies, do re-dos

**2.5-3.5 hours total**

***How do I join? Do I have to tryout?*** Come to our opening meeting on September 7th in the Kimmel Center \_\_

CHECK OUT OUR TEAM WEBSITE – <http://clubs.nyu.edu/org/ceda>

***2016-17 CEDA TOURNAMENT TRAVEL CALENDAR***

Sept 17-19 UMKC

Sept 17-18 UROC

Sept 23-25 Rutgers

Oct 07-09 West Point

Oct 29-31 Vermont

Nov 12-13 Monmouth

Nov 19-21 Wake Forest

Jan 03-10 UTD/UNT Swing

Jan 14-16 UNLV

Jan 28-30 Indiana U

Feb 11-12 Cornell

Feb 18-19 NDT Districts

Feb. 18-19 Eastern Regional Champs

Mar 03-05 JV/Nov Nats (WVU)

Mar 16-20 CEDA Nats (JCCC, Kansas)

Mar 23-27 NDT (KCKCC, Kansas)

***Regional Tournaments:*** Rutgers, West Point, Rochester, Monmouth, Cornell, East Regional Championships, Novice Nationals

***National Caliber Tournaments:*** UMKC, Harvard, Wake Forest, UT-Dallas, North Texas, UT-Austin, NDT Districts, JV Nats, CEDA Nationals, NDT

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