

MSPDP

Middle School Public Debate Program

Background

Founded: Claremont McKenna College

Early 2000s

John Meany & Kate Shuster

5th-8th grade

Nation's largest program for debating in the middle grades

More than 40,000 students in class/contest debating in US and Africa



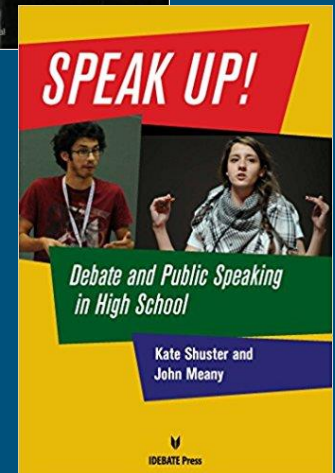
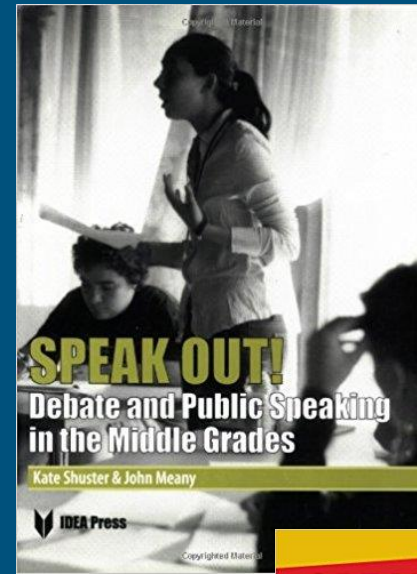
From left, champion debater Jesse Katz Blumenthal with debate coach John Meany (center) and champion debate partner Charles Sprague.

Books

Speak Out! Debate and Public Speaking in the Middle Grades

Speak Up!

(Amazon.com, \$24.95)



MSPDP - Mission and Charter

The Public Debate Program (PDP) is designed to improve student skills for academic and career success. This mission reflects the vision and goals for national and international operations for teachers and students participating in classroom instruction and projects, as well as competitive debating in *Youth* (dedicated 5th-6th grade leagues), *Middle School* (5th-8th grade leagues), *High School* and *International High School* (9th-12th grade leagues and events), *College/University* debating (undergraduate and graduate/professional school initiatives), and *Community/External* debate and discussion events.

The PDP empowers students to develop and practice excellence in critical thinking and oral communication. It educates students to understand and debate, discuss, and deliberate current and historical public policy and educational controversies. It provides curricular information and other resources to integrate public speaking, argumentation, critical listening, note taking, issue analysis, evidence evaluation, and comparative assessment skills in the classroom, and support like professional presentation development in competitive debate and community, non-profit-organization, business, and government events and projects. In addition, the PDP engages teachers, parents, and community members in students' learning, particularly as volunteer debate coaches and judges.

Format of Middle School Debate

3 Students per team 3:3

Proposition - Opposition

- First Speaker
- Second Speaker
- Third Speaker - REBUTTALIST (compare, contrast and explain why their team should win the debate)



Debating

Motion - the topic being debated

Debaters prepare **both sides of 4 motions**

Present only one side - randomly selected

Format: **A**ssertion
 Reasoning
 Evidence
 Impact (Results, Significance)

Proposition - goes first and has the last say

Hold the “Burden of Proof” for the argument

Proposition 1
Opposition 1
Proposition 2
Opposition 2

Opposition Rebuttalist
Proposition Rebuttalist

Debating

Proposition's Job

Uphold the argument with clear points, sound evidence while refuting (knocking down) all the counterpoints placed by Opposition

Opposition's Job

Refute the entire argument put forth by proposition and propose and support a counter argument

Judge's Job

1. **Eliminate your personal bias from the start**
2. Listen fully to both sides of the debate
3. Flow the debate
4. Decide which team wins and convey who won and why
5. Give students constructive individual feedback and speaker scores
6. Complete the judge's ballot
7. Complete the debate and student feedback*
8. Manage the room

Judging

THE DEBATE

- Setting up the room -expectations
- Check your bias
- Answering questions-*notes/whispering*
- Timer assistance
- No photos
- No parent participation
- Note passing
- Active Listening
- Flowing -Flowsheet/notes
- Adjudication
- Team Exit and Re-entry, Mark Ballot
- Feedback

TIME MANAGEMENT - 10 -15 minutes

THE CLASH

- POI -15 seconds
- HECKLES - 2 words
- "ORDER"
- *ONLY* MSPDP RULES
- PLAN & TOPICALITY
- 2 PERSON TEAMS (3 Separate scores)

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What to write - What to say

What to write

Flowsheet

Judges Rubric - scoring

SCORES

Scale

Range: 64-72 absolute beginners to “getting it”

Range: 73-78 organized but limited debate

Range: 79-84 solid, logical, strong speakers

Range: 85+ ready for regionals--jaw

dropping

Completing the ballot

“Running the ballot”

What to say

“If it was your child”

No sarcasm

PNP - Positive, Negative, Positive

Gauge the level of the debater

Style vs. Substance

TO REVIEW

FLWSHEET -How to write and listen

JUDGES RUBRIC

SAVING SCORES - Keep on your flowsheet

SAMPLE BALLOT

COMPLETING THE BALLOT - done in the room

SENDING BACK THE BALLOT - “running”

BALLOT STUDENT FEEDBACK - after the round

Poor-Fair-Good Examples

<http://www.ivdl.org/judges-corner.html>

Leagues and Competition

Southern California Leagues

1. **Desert Valleys Debate League** (Palm Springs area)
2. **Golden State Debate League** (San Fernando Valley and Conejo Valley)
3. **Inland Valley Debate League** (Upland, Redlands, Temecula, Chino, Walnut, and Claremont)
4. **Orange County Debate League**
5. **Pacific Coast Debate League** (Palos Verdes and West LA)
6. **Rancho California Debate League** (Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley)

- Scramble at start of year - Novice students
- Tournaments - 4 per year
- Regional Championship - April
- League Championship - May

What's next

[IVDL.ORG](https://ivdl.org)

middleschooldebate.com

- Shadow a judge
- Partner with a judge to give feedback
- Receive Certification at the end of the tournament
- Read Kate Shuster's book
- Sign up to judge at the next Tournament - allows your school to bring 2 more teams



Dedicated to Mr. Lee Harris