

Introduction (Expectations and Goals)

Welcome to the spring 2004 debate training. This training has several goals: first as always, is to introduce those new team members who have not debated before to the basic ideas and structure of policy debate. The second goal will be to engage at a more advanced level those who have been members of our team and already have some understanding of basic debate concepts (our “experienced” team members). Because of this double training approach, training will take place two days per week: Monday and Thursday, culminating with our Mock Debate April 24th and 25th. [A third goal of this training is to produce a basis for future training sessions, thus I’ll be making these handouts and soliciting feedback.]

Monday training will be geared towards new members, and will go over basic debate concepts, language, etc. Veterans, though not required to attend, will be encouraged to come in order that they might solidify their own basic knowledge, assist newcomers (particularly when breaking into group activities, etc), give feedback to the instructor (to wit, me ☺), and reflect on instructional methods in order that they might be able to take over training next semester (when I’m gone).

Thursday training sessions will be geared toward veteran team members, and will involve many things. They will be a more in-depth discussion of the different aspects of debate, elaborating on the concepts introduced on the previous Monday. They will include practical applications of those issues (i.e. we will practice mini parts of actual debates where those issues are being discussed). They will also attempt to discuss overall strategies for each side of the debate and analyze speech responsibilities. Newcomers, though not required to attend, are encouraged to attend these training sessions, as the more exposure and work one puts into debate the easier and faster one becomes good at it.

As mentioned earlier, the culmination of these training sessions will be an end-of-the-semester tournament scheduled to be held April 24th-25th. In preparation for this, the last training sessions will be practice rounds. This will provide new members an opportunity to experience an actual debate before facing competition from other schools, and give the veterans a chance to refresh their memories.

Suggestions/Recommendations:

Like anything else, you get out of debate what you put into it. I have ideas in mind for what the next step should be, but one thing that I have found in my learning (and teaching) about debate is that it is very difficult to compartmentalize the information, as it is all very intertwined. Therefore I encourage everyone to take some personal responsibility in learning about debate. There are loads of teaching tools online, most notably at the University of Vermont’s website debate.uvm.edu. Specifically, I recommend reading (sections at a time) the Code of the Debater (debate.uvm.edu/code/001.html), an all-encompassing debate text book, or watching some of UVM’s instructional debate videos (<http://debate.uvm.edu/policyvideo.html>, I would start with the “Novice Policy Debate Videos”). You can also watch actual debates on UVM’s website, debate.uvm.edu/watchdebate.html, though I warn you that not all of the debates on that page are policy debates, not all are in English, and some are intro and some are advanced. I’ll try to recommend specific readings and videos to watch as we go along, but as I said, the more you put into it on your own the better debater you will become.

Schedule:

The schedule of training will [tentatively] look like this:

<u>Date (week):</u>	<u>Monday Content</u>	<u>Thursday Content</u>
March 8 th &11 th	Overview/Intro, Stock Issues, Intro to Aff. debating	HOCKEY GAME
March 22 nd &25 th	Negative Case Attacks, DisAds, Counterplans	Advanced Neg, types of DAs, types of CPs, writing DAs & CPs, answering DAs & CPs
March 29 th -April 1 st	Critiques and Counterplans	Writing T shells and Ks, answering T and Ks, neg strategy, decision making, kicking arguments
April 5 th &8 th	Flowing, evidence, drills, Underview, questions	Advanced elements of aff. debate, aff. speech responsibility, preparation, writing an aff
April 12 th &15 th	Practice Rounds	Scouting & Prep OR Practice Rounds
April 19 th &22 nd	Practice Rounds	OPEN (Q's/whatever)