Public Forum Debate

Online Expectations

Public Forum Debate deals with current events topics. In the midst of a global pandemic, we recognize that the evolving ways in which we communicate, work, and educate through crisis is likely to be a defining issue for upcoming PF debates, and that is why we feel that the move to online debate camp is particularly applicable and timely for our PF division. We will provide a platform to discuss these challenges in the way that the rest of the world is engaging in so that students have both time and experience to develop their thoughts on these issues.

As we move online, our staff continues to be dedicated to creating well rounded public forum students. We have been involved in online debate instruction for years and are currently hosting online classes and practices for our own teams. Students will work in lab groups assigned by skill level to perfect the foundational skills of research and argument construction. These groups will meet via Blackboard and will have the option for even smaller group collaborative sessions via that format. Students will participate in interactive lectures and electives there as well. An exciting facet of our online curriculum is the ability for students to revisit or visit anew previously covered content and/or lectures they were not originally a part of. We think that this enhances instructional opportunities and information retention in new ways. As a camp dedicated to all formats of debate, we are pleased to announce that our PF students will have increased access to content and our world class instructors across divisions. Debate formats are increasingly interconnected, and these opportunities allow us to collaborate on emerging PF trends like Kritiks and theory with a larger pool of instructors who have been teaching them for years.

Students will participate in practice rounds, drills, and redos via Blackboard Collaborate and Teams. Here we will focus in on refutation and rebuttal strategies designed to appeal to the wide array of judges that students encounter in this format. Students will get to put the curriculum into practice with daily drill sessions so that they leave camp much more well rounded than when they began. Our staff has extensive knowledge in PF and other debate formats so students can rest assured that the feedback and instruction they receive is backed by years worth of experience and success.

Students can expect that by the conclusion of the MGC Workshop they will be equipped with a diverse array of strategies, skills, and drills to facilitate their continued growth as debaters and intellectuals.

Public Forum Debate Schedule 2020

Download the Daily Schedule (PDF).

Director's Statement

Debate's greatest gift and lesson should be the strength of community. Our camp will truly embrace this directive. In addition to honing their individual skills, we will encourage students to create relationships that will make debate a more friendly place for all of us. When students leave Mean Green
Comet we hope that they will remain friends with their peers, continue the discussions we have cultivated over the summer with one another, feel that the adults they have interacted with in this space are allies they reach out to if they need them, and truly understand how to make debate more accessible to those that weren’t able to join us this summer. We love to win, but our lasting impact is the lessons we learn and the legacy we leave. Mean Green Comet seeks to create camp alumni who will leave a lasting impact on the debate communities they serve and participate in.

**Division Director**

**Eric Melin**

Mr. Melin is the Debate Coach at the new Coppell High School Ninth Grade Center. Prior to Coppell, Mr. Melin was at Law Magnet, Hockaday and Southlake Carroll Senior High School. Mr. Melin also assisted the Colleyville and Grapevine debate teams. He has a BA in psychology with a minor in social work, UT-Austin, 2002. He earned his teacher certification from UNT-Denton, 2008. During his time as a debate coach, Mr. Melin’s Lincoln Douglas debaters have been extremely successful. His students have won all of the local tournaments and have been in late elimination rounds at the national circuit tournaments and championships. Mr. Melin’ students have regularly qualified for and enjoyed success at TFA State, The NSDA National Championship and The Tournament of Champions. He has coached extemporaneous and Policy Debate champions at TFA State and a Informative Speaking champion at UIL State. During his career as a competitor, he was one of the most dominant LD debaters on the national circuit, winning such tournaments as TFA State, Greenhill, and Colleyville; placing second at both the Big Bronx New York City Invitational and Bronx Round Robin; reaching semifinals at St. Mark’s; and participating in elimination rounds at Glenbrooks and Emory. His junior year he placed seventh at NFL Nationals. He twice qualified for the TOC reaching quarterfinals as a senior and earning a winning record as a junior.
Division Staff

John Sims
John Sims is entering his ninth year as a debate coach. He has coached Lincoln-Douglas at Colleyville Heritage High School and Coppell High School in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In that time his students have reached elimination rounds at Berkeley, UT, Grapevine, St. Marks, TFA State, and NSDA Nationals. John is excited to work with public forum debaters to learn how to understand and take advantage of the new trends on the national circuit.

Katelynne Shadman
Katelynne debated at Colleyville Heritage High School for 4 years in Public Forum. She has reached elimination rounds at national tournaments such as Plano West and Hockaday while also achieved many speaker awards including at the Grapevine Classic and Plano West. She is a two time qualifier for the NSDA National Tournament and the TFA State Tournament where she broke her senior year. She has also been very involved in coaching novice and middle school public forum for the past two years. Katelynne is very excited to work at Mean Green this summer!

Enroll Now

Click Here to Enroll

MGCDI enrollment is open! Follow the link above to reserve your spot in our 2020 summer program. The final deadline for all registration is June 22, 2020.