Worlds School Debate

Online Expectations

World Schools is a dynamic debate format that teaches students the value of a global worldview, teamwork, and thinking on their feet. World Schools serves students in a way that other debate formats do not by placing communicative skills at the forefront and encouraging the synthesis of information in ways that are not strictly empirical. These are particularly timely and important skills and concepts as the world struggles with a global pandemic and the ways in which we interact with one another are rapidly changing. World Schools is practiced all over the globe, and for years many national teams have practiced online as they are often not in the same place at the same time. So, the notion of online preparation is not new to the format. We are excited to be moving the camp online and will draw from our previous experiences with online debate education, which our staff has been involved in for ten years, and the resources provided by the university to ensure that we continue to hit our curricular goals and meet students’ needs on this new camp platform.

You will be engaged with staff throughout the day utilizing a few different online platforms. On Blackboard, we will provide lectures to guide in breaking down various types of World Schools motions and other format best practices, small group lab instruction tailored to the needs of various skill levels, and even smaller group breakouts for drills designed to perfect your argumentative skills. We will facilitate rounds and practice speeches via Blackboard Collaborate and Microsoft Teams. There you will put it all together to simulate tournament level preparedness. Our faculty aims to be a partner in your debate success. We use proven techniques to continuously assess and adjust curriculum based on individual student needs. In addition, the online platform gives us the exciting opportunity to collaborate across divisions and gives our World Schools students the opportunity to learn skills and content from instructors in other formats. We think that these new perspectives will help our students become more well rounded debaters overall.

World Schools topics change from round to round. Students are challenged to produce quality well-researched arguments through prepared motions which are published well ahead of a given tournament. They must also learn how to draw on their wide knowledge of current global issues during impromptu motions. These motions are announced an hour prior to the round, and students must prepare for the debate without the use of technology or the internet. It is an exciting format that probably most closely mirrors what students imagined debate to be like with no prior knowledge. The nature of World Schools opens itself up to the use of analogy, drawing from literature, and discussing the principles that guide us through various world questions. We will use a balance of prepared and impromptu motions throughout camp to keep you engaged and give you the best experiences to enhance your debate education.

While this event is in its infancy in Texas, our staff is one of the most experienced in the country. We know what it takes to compete at the highest levels, and we will share that knowledge through our curriculum. Our staff will use their extensive knowledge to guide you towards success in the 2020-2021 competitive season and beyond.

Director's Statement

Debate is the single most transformative activity I engaged in in high school. I can remember being a shy girl who was smart but deeply unsure of herself. After an injury sidelined me from athletic competition, I found debate as a competitive outlet. It ended up being so much more. Debate helped me find my voice, taught me
how to deploy it in an impactful manner, and broadened my understanding of the world. It fundamentally changed me as a person, and I am proud of the woman I’ve grown into because of it.

I come back to debate because I have seen similar journeys in the students I've worked with over the years. I am consistently amazed by the people I’ve met through debate, and I feel honored to be part of crafting experiences that challenge students in the same way I was challenged years ago. They challenge me too. It is the most difficult and rewarding work of my life.

At Mean Green Comet we strive to develop the whole student. We will strive tirelessly to help each other achieve our goals. We will foster an environment where students feel safe to express themselves and encouraged to experiment with new ideas and literature. We will hone individual skills and celebrate those victories.

We will also create a community that students can return to throughout camp, next season, and for years to come. Increasing accessibility and diversity in debate is an obligation shared by all its stakeholders, and we will do our best to let these principles guide us at Mean Green Comet. Our goal is always to create alumni who leave their debate communities more enriched than they found them so that those communities can continue to enrich new students year after year.

Division Director

Jennifer Melin

Jenn Melin joins Mean Green Comet Debate after directing the National Symposium for Debate’s Texas Campus since 2016. Jenn has previously directed curriculum for the University of Texas National Institute for Forensics and Victory Briefs Lincoln Douglas debate camps dating back to
2010. She is happy to bring her extensive experience with debate institutes to Mean Green Comet.

As an LD coach, Jenn has been active in the national and Texas debate communities for over fifteen years. Her students have advanced to elimination rounds of virtually every major national tournament. She has coached champions of the Grapevine, University of Texas, Blue Key, Blue Key Round Robin, Strake Jesuit, Strake Jesuit Round Robin, Colleyville, and Voices Round Robin. In addition to coaching semi-finalists at St. Marks and Greenhill. Jenn has specialized in working with students from small Texas programs and has qualified a significant number of those students to the TOC and NSDA Nationals over the years. The 2019-2020 LD TOC Bid Leader is one such student. She has qualified almost every student she’s ever coached to TFA State; culminating in a record setting fourteen LD qualifications in a single year. Her students have participated in out rounds of both TOC and TFA. Jenn has also coached a UIL 5A State Champion and last year’s UIL 6A runner-up.

Jenn is also one of the most active members of the Texas World Schools community. She has coached the Lone Star District World Schools team since the inception of the event at the National Tournament. Her students have reached elimination rounds of that tournament the past three years, including clearing a record three teams at the 2019 National Tournament. She frequently works in the tabroom of World Schools Tournaments in DFW and leads judge trainings at these events. Jenn directs the Grapevine Colleyville ISD Middle School Debate Club and assists the Greenhill Middle School Debate club; both of which place a large emphasis on teaching the format to younger students.

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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.