

Pilot Round:  
The George Schools Debating League



# Introduction



## Greetings from the National Debating League!

Our competitive debate programs are designed to help students build their confidence, find their voice and explore topics that don't neatly fit into a standard school curriculum.

Our goal with every program is to:

- Create a supportive environment for students to succeed and fail in;
- Empower our teachers and coaches by giving them the resources and guidance needed to run self-sustaining debate clubs within their own schools;
- Celebrate the achievements of our students.

Debate can be a powerful tool to add to your school's extracurricular offering.

**Debate is a truly democratic sport.** It doesn't require any specialized facilities and some of the world's best teams have come from humble backgrounds. Some of the world's most impactful coaches aren't even former speakers—they're often driven educators who use the open structure of debate to inspire their students.

**Community drives development.** A strong feedback loop is created by adjudicators delivering constructive feedback to competitors and teams learn to support each other through the highs of a win and the lows of a loss.

**Educational outcomes are our focus.** Our team has well over a decade of experience in coordinating local and international tournaments. Our motions are well-tested and age appropriate, our tournament formats have been honed over time and we take the feedback of our teachers and students seriously.



# Our Existing Leagues

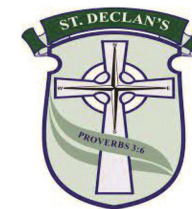


## Our Cape Town and Johannesburg Leagues

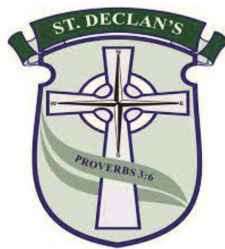
In Johannesburg and Cape Town we run debate “leagues”. Every two weeks, nearly a hundred students in each city meet to compete. The time between tournaments makes it possible for us to engage in detailed research-driven debates. Our programs in Johannesburg and Cape Town have brought together 200 students.

In total, our 2023 season will see **nearly 150 matches**.

We are in the process of establishing more leagues in South African towns/cities.



## Testimonials from our Johannesburg League



"At the start of the season the boys were anxious as this was an all-time first for them. The warmth and safe environment offered during the debate season has grown both their confidence and ability. At the start of our term, they were all lined up outside my class (before extra murals began for the term), begging to start debate. It has been such a privilege to both work with you and the other members and then to witness the growth of my learners."

**Norma Eastmure**

**Debate Coordinator & Coach at St Declan's School for Boys**



"Glenanda Primary School joined the Johannesburg South Debating League which has proven to be an extremely rewarding experience. The knowledge that the organiser, Mr T. Moodley shared was both conducive and efficacious since it had tips and tricks that helped our learners become successful. By participating in Inter-School competitions, it led them into becoming effective, budding debaters and very competitive against high profile schools. Our learners' success from this experience has made them confident and conscious of greater expectations. Mr T.Moodley portrays a great deal of knowledge and enthusiasm in what he does."

**Natalie Henning**

**Debate Coordinator & Coach at Glenanda Primary School**

# Structure for Our Gqeberha Pilot Round



## Program Structure

We plan on hosting a pilot round in George on **26 October 2023**.

The goal of this round is to introduce the key concepts of debate to our teachers and students, giving them the knowledge needed to prepare for our 2024 season.

The program will be structured as follows:

### Arrivals: 2:00pm

We will gather in a central meeting space like a school hall or a team teaching room. Educators will collect materials needed for the day such as nametags, scoring ballots and information sheets.

### Welcome & Briefings: 2:30pm

We will have a short welcome address. Thereafter we will brief our students and teachers on our debate format and discuss our scoring criteria.

### Debate Rounds: 3:00pm

We will have two rounds of debate. The topics for each round will be released on the day and teams will have 30 minutes to prepare their cases and speeches.

### Awards Ceremony: 5:30pm

We'll celebrate the achievements of our pioneering debaters with a brief awards ceremony to recognize our top teams and individuals.

### Departure : 6:00pm





# Hosting Our Pilot Round



## Why host a round?

Hosting a round will turn your school into the center of an exciting community initiative and makes our debate program accessible to your students.

It also presents a great opportunity to show off your school facilities to prospective students and parents.

## What facilities will we need?

Our needs are simple. We'll need:

- Your school hall (or a different gathering space)
- Approximately 15 classrooms

## How long will we need the facilities?

We will work around the availability of your hall and classrooms. It's ideal if we can access the hall by 1:30pm and access to the classrooms by 2:45pm.

## Will it cost anything to host?

We'll take care of any expenses incurred in the hosting of the round, like printing, banners, medals, trophies and snacks for teachers.

## When do we want to host the pilot round?

26 October 2023, 2:00pm to 5:30pm



# Debate Format



## Team Composition

Students will work in teams of three. There are two age divisions:

- Group D: Grade 4-5 (4 minute speeches—30 minutes to prepare)
- Group C: Grade 6-7 (4 minute speeches—30 minutes to prepare)
- Group B: Grade 8-9 (6 minute speeches—20 minutes to prepare)
- Group A: Grade 10+ (8 minute speeches—10 minutes to prepare)

A team can consist of students from different grades, as long as those grades fit within the same age division.

## Speech Preparation

Topics will be provided in advance. This will make it possible to prepare speeches before arriving. Schools will be provided with preparation packs upon registering.

Teams will be randomly assigned to the Proposition (supporting) or Negative (opposition) side of the topic.

## Engagement

Engagement is created through Points of Information and rebuttal.

**3 Speakers Per Team**

**2 Judges per Debate**

**30 minutes to prepare**

**To learn more about our format and scoring criteria, please visit:**

<https://www.primarydebate.capetown/debate-format>

# Entry Requirements



## How to Register

Download the registration form from:

<https://www.primarydebate.capetown/george>

**Or** email [Thishin@ndl.org.za](mailto:Thishin@ndl.org.za)

**Or** call Thishin on +27 81 343 9036 for more information.

## Team Formation

Teams should consist of three members.

All members of a team should belong to the same age division.

## Staff Supervision and Adjudication

For every team entered we will require one teacher to serve as an adjudicator. This makes it possible for us to allocate two judges to each debate.

## Number of Teams

The number of teams a school can enter will be limited by the number of adjudicators they are able to provide. We recommend entering at least two teams.

## Registration Fees

To cover the operational expenses of the program a registration fee will be charged for each participating student. This will cover the costs of the awards and the resources needed to make the tournament possible.

The registration fee for our George Pilot Round will be R600 per team.





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<https://www.primarydebate.capetown/>