



Robbinsdale Cooper
Debate
2010 – 2011



What is debate?

By definition, debate is: A deliberative discussion with presentation of arguments for and against. Academic debate involves a competitive format with a preset topic, in-depth research, the organization of ideas into persuasive presentations, cross examination, and defense against attack.

Debate is an activity that promotes learning through research, understanding ideas and topics, and learning how to effectively communicate those ideas to others.

In short, debate is an immensely fun activity where high school students can flex their argumentative muscles in a competitive, objective environment. Students debate a variety of real-world issues at debate tournaments weekly throughout the Fall.

Why join debate?

Because it is fun! Further put, debate allows students opportunities that some students will never get throughout high school. Debate allows students to meet other students from around the nation, participate in academic discussions on current topics and creates opportunities for collegiate scholarships.

How much does it cost?

Participating in any after-school fine arts activity has a cost of \$110.00 per season. This fee has changed for past school years and it is now necessary to pay for each individual activity you participate in. Additionally, there is a \$15.00, one-time fee, for membership into the National Forensic League (NFL). This fee is only collected once and covers both Speech and Debate.

Scholarships are available through both Cooper High School and Debate Team for students interested to help offset the rising costs of activity fees.

Note, the \$15.00 is separate from the fine arts activity cost and must be a different check made payable to Cooper Debate.

How much time does it take?

That is up to the student; however practices at the beginning of the school year are significantly more important as we teach the fundamentals of debate. Since most students have never debated before, it is learning a new skill.

Novice Practice: Monday & Wednesday (2:20 PM to 4:00 PM)

Varsity/JV Practice: Monday (2:20 PM to 5:00 PM) & Wednesday (2:20 to 4:00 PM)

Earlier you said \$15.00 for the NFL, what is the NFL?

No, it's not the National Football League, even though they share the same name. The NFL is a non-profit organization that was created in 1925 to promote student participation in speech competitions. Additionally, the NFL focuses on "training" students for leadership positions.

Who has been in the NFL?

With its great history, many historic figures have participated in high school debate. Just a small list of NFL alumni include President Lyndon Johnson, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Senators Karl Mundt, David Boren, John Edwards and John Kerry, Speaker of the House James Wright, actress Shelly Long, television host Oprah Winfrey, news anchor Jane Pauley, Justice Stephen Breyer and thousands of other leaders in politics, business, education, law and public service.

Is there any more information online?

Yes, our website is at <http://www.cooperdebate.com> .

The forums are used for instructional purposes as much as possible and are monitored by the coaching staff and parents. Parents are encouraged to visit the website if they wish and if any activity is questionable it will be removed from the site.

2010 – 2011 Debate Schedule

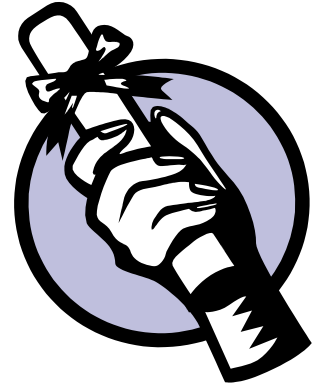
<i>St. Francis Invite</i> - <i>St. Francis HS</i>	<i>10/2/2010</i>	
<i>University of MN Tournament</i> - <i>University of MN</i>	<i>10/8 – 9/2010</i>	
<i>Lakeville South</i> - <i>Lakeville South HS</i>	<i>10/16/2010</i>	
<i>Coon Rapids Debate</i> - <i>Coon Rapids HS</i>	<i>10/23/2010 (MEA Weekend)</i>	
<i>Andover High School</i> - <i>Andover HS</i>	<i>10/30/2010</i>	
<i>Minneapolis</i> - <i>Apple Valley HS</i>	<i>11/5 - 6/2010</i>	<i>4 Varsity Unlimited Novice</i>
<i>Flake Stakes</i> - <i>Forest Lake HS</i>	<i>11/13/2010</i>	
<i>Robbinsdale Birds of Prey</i> - <i>Armstrong/Cooper HS</i>	<i>11/20/2010</i>	
<i>JV/Novice State</i> - <i>Eagan HS</i>	<i>12/3 – 4/2010</i>	<i>Novice/JV Only</i>
<i>Blake Holiday Tournament</i> - <i>Hyatt Regency Hotel</i>	<i>12/17 - 18/2010</i>	<i>Top 4 Students</i>
<i>2011 Section Tournament</i> - <i>TBD</i>	<i>1/3 – 4/2011</i>	<i>Top 2 Students</i>
<i>2011 State Debate Tournament</i> - <i>University of MN</i>	<i>1/14 –15/2011</i>	<i>Qualifiers Only</i>
<i>2011 Southern NFL Qualifier</i> - <i>Eagan HS</i>	<i>1/21 – 22/2011</i>	<i>Top 12 Students</i>

Students are not required to participate at every tournament.

Activites Letter

Usually thought of as an athletics only award, the Activities Letter is based on the same criteria as its sports counterpart. To receive an academic letter in Debate a student must possess and accomplish the following tasks:

- Participate in 30 Varsity Debate Rounds
- Show a willingness to help others
- Have missed no “scheduled” tournaments



Team Accomplishments

2010 – National Tournament Qualifier in Student Congress
2010 – Minnesota State High School League Quarter-Finalist
2010 – Section 4AA Champion
2009 – State Tournament Participant
2008 – National Tournament Qualifier in Student Congress
2008 – National Tournament Qualifier in Public-Forum
2008 – Minnesota State High School League State Runner-Up
2008 – Minnesota State High School League State Semi-Finalists
2008 – Section 6AA Champion
2007 – 13th Place Lincoln-Douglas, National Tournament, Wichita Kansas
2007 – Minnesota State High School League State Champion
2007 – Section 6AA Runner-Up
2006 – 8th Place Lincoln-Douglas, Nation Tournament, Grapevine Texas
2006 – Minnesota State High School League Quarter-Finalist
2006 – Section 6AA Champion
2005 – Minnesota Debate Teachers Association Coach of the Year
2005 – Minnesota State High School League Semi-Finalist
2005 – Section 6AA Champion

Debate Coaches

DJ Brynteson, Director of Forensics & Head Debate Coach
Rob Cegla, Assistant Coach
Emilia Spalding, Assistant Coach

Cooper Top 15 NFL Points

The Robbinsdale School District_Top 15 reflects the top NFL students over the past 40 years. Cooper Speech and Debate team was first started in 1963 and continued until 1979 when the long time coach Harvey Weiss retired from Robbinsdale Cooper. The Cooper Speech team was restarted in 1999 when Kristina Martin joined the Cooper teaching staff. The debate team was reintroduced in the 2001 - 2002 season. The Armstrong Debate Team was first started in 1958 and discontinued in 1981. It was reintroduced in 2009-10.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Graduation Year</u>
1.	Emila Spalding	1309	2008
2.	Chyenne Thibodo	1246	2010
3.	Dan Willey	1199	2008
4.	Rob Cegla	1184	2006
5.	Alex Zudova	1017	2008
6.	Maria Brun	871	2005
7.	Andrew Becklund	863	2006
8.	Uyen Phan	783	2008
9.	John Edberg	641	1973
10.	Amith Ravindar	575	2010
11.	Ashley Dow	570	2007
12.	Drew Smith	564	2008
13.	Julie Nord	557	1977
14.	Laurie Lindquist	507	1973
15.	Susanna Louise Stahlmann	490	2008

a) Denotes an active student

Cooper Active Top 10 NFL Points

Name	Degrees	Points
Joseph Earl Kleckner	Distinction	377
Sydney Rae Nolan	Distinction	360
Collin Edward Brown	Distinction	300
Celisia Antonia Stanton	Distinction	258
Scott Rance Ragan	Excellence	210
Thomas Charles Bainey	Excellence	186
Katelyn Ferris Esper	Excellence	168
Kathleen Olivia Bowden	Excellence	162
Kiefer Spores	Excellence	156
Marek Dominkk Zorawski	Honor	147

How are points awarded?

Points in debate are awarded based on win / loss record and number of “audience” rounds. Six points for a win, three points for a loss. Various points are awarded for break rounds depending on the size of the audience round. Additionally, points are awarded in high school speech events and student congress. A student can only receive seven hundred and fifty points in each category of speech, debate and student congress. Additional points can be reached through district and national participation.

Degrees and Ranks: The following is a list of degrees and ranks:

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Pin</u>	<u>Points</u>
Degree of Honor	None	75 Points
Degree of Excellence	Blue Sapphire	150 Points
Degree of Distinction	Ruby	250 Points
Degree of Special Distinction	Double Ruby	500 Points
Degree of Superior Distinction	Triple Ruby	750 Points
Degree of Outstanding Distinction	Quadruple Ruby	1000 Points
Degree of Premier Distinction	Quintuple Ruby	1500 Points

NFL Academic All-American Award

The NFL Academic All-American Award is awarded to a senior, who serves three years of membership to the NFL, has a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher, scores a 27 or greater on the ACT test, scores a SAT score of 2000 or higher and recorded more than 750 NFL points.

Only two students in the 35 year history of debate and speech in the district have ever accomplish this feat.

2007-08:	Alex Zudova (Cooper)	Full Scholar/Honors Program University of MN
	Uyen Phan (Cooper)	Full Scholar Yale

Post Season Awards

Each year a number of post season awards are presented to Cooper Students for several different categories. Each year the awards are based on performance of the students and are rated by their peers and coaches to determine each year's winner.

Outstanding Varsity Debater

2009-10: Chyenne Thibodo
2008-09: Chyenne Thibodo
2007-08: Dan Willey
2006-07: Dan Willey
2005-06: Rob Cegla
2004-05: Maria Brun
2003-04: Maria Brun
2002-03: Maria Brun

Outstanding Public Forum Team

2007-08: Margaret Somers & Jessica Swanson
2006-07: Margaret Somers & Jessica Swanson
2005-06: Angela Selness & Jasmine Carroll
2004-05: Ashley Dow & Anna Tahtamouni
2003-04: Tatyana Liskovich & Allisa Monicatti
2002-03: Tatyana Liskovich & Jade Williams

Outstanding Junior-Varsity Debater

2009-10: Joe Kleckner
2008-09: Sydney Nolan
2007-08: Chyenne Thibodo
2006-07: Jared Caspers
2005-06: N/A
2004-05: Ashley Dow
2003-04: Robert Cegla
2002-03: N/A

Most Improved Debater:

2009-10: Collin Brown
2008-09: Katie Bowden
2007-08: Melissa Diamond
2006-07: Emilia Spalding
2005-06: Emilia Spalding
2004-05: Duykha Vu
2003-04: Jessie Fossmo
2002-03: Robert Cegla

Outstanding Novice Debater

2009-10: Celisia Stanton
2008-09: Tom Baine
2007-08: Amith Ravindar
2006-07: Erik Legried
2005-06: Uyen Phan
2004-05: Dan Willey
2003-04: Ashley Dow
2002-03: Jeffrey Hudson

Coaches Award:

2009-10: Katy Esper
2008-09: Tony Gao
2007-08: Emilia Spalding
2006-07: Alex Zudova
2005-06: Andrew Becklund
2004-05: Maria Brun
2003-04: Jeffrey Hudson
2002-03: Maria Brun

Juan Pedro Memorial Award

2009-10: Chyenne Thibodo (360 Pts)	2005-06: Dan Willey (312 Pts)
2008-09: Chyenne Thibodo (268 Pts)	2004-05: Rob Cegla (212 Pts)
2007-08: Emilia Splading	2003-04: Rob Cegla (246 Pts)
Erik Legried (Tie 309 Pts)	2002-03: Maria Brun (289 Pts)
2006-07: Erik Legried (327 Pts)	

The most improved debater and coach's awards are selected by the coach and presented each year to one student on the team. The Most Improved Debater award goes to a student who has shown significant improvement in the activity from the beginning of the year. The Coaches Award goes to a student who has demonstrated skills/attributes that coaches have decided improved the team atmosphere and ability throughout the year.

The Juan Pedro Memorial Award is given to the debater whom accumulates the most NFL points in a single debate season.