



INFORMATION FOR NEW DEBATERS 2006

www.sydneyhigh.org.au/debating

SBHSD DEBATING

Who am I?

- Ms Brewer
MIC or Coordinator of Debating
- I “live” in the social sciences staffroom
- I administer and organise all the school-based aspects of debating: employing coaches, email information, organise home debates, liaise with the DSG, etc.
- Email contact with me is the easiest:
sbhsdebating@gmail.com

What about Public Speaking?

- Public Speaking is looked after by Ms Rachel Howland in the English staffroom.
- Students should look out for information on PS in the daily notices (or “mango sheet”) or talk to Ms Howland.
- From time to time you may receive an email from debating with regard to a PS comp or event.
- There are various comps for PS in all year groups.

No experience necessary!

- If you have not debated before we will give you all the training you need.
- All you need to have is a **willingness** to learn and the **courage** to step up and speak!
- You can start debating at any stage up until year ten (although the later you leave it the trickier it might get to commence!)

Coaching

- is offered to ALL boys who register for debating.
- is **FREE** of charge
(a contribution to the coach's gift of \$10 is expected at the end of the season)

Who are the coaches?

- Coaches are generally old-boys and/or university students with high level of debating experience (some up to “worlds” level!)
- Your coaches in 2006 will probably be Evan Solomons, Will Clegg and another person TBC.
- Coaches are responsible for running trainings sessions, conducting selections and choosing teams.
- All coaches and adjudicators go through the compulsory employment screening procedures for working with children.

When is coaching?

- I don't know yet!
- It will depend on your coaches availability (according to their uni and work commitments) and the availability of the largest number of boys.
- As there will be 3 coaches for year 7 in 2006, there will be a number of sessions running.

When will coaching start?

- Coaching should start in Week 3 or 4 of Term 1.
- It runs through until Week 7 of Term 3 (approx. 20 weeks).
- It will be held once a week and will go for **one hour**.
- You are expected attend at least 70% of coaching sessions to qualify for the awards scheme.

Can I start coaching in Term 2?

- Yes! Debating is officially a “winter” sport. Students with sporting commitments in summer can start in term 2...
- However, this may mean they have missed the Eastside Comp and therefore some key debates in which to try-out for the GPS teams.

Conduct in coaching

- All boys are to treat their coach with the same respect that they would a teacher.
- Debating is a privilege not a right.
- Boys who are not behaving appropriately in coaching will be counselled and action taken accordingly in consultation with parents.
- You may be excluded from debating if your behaviour is consistently unsatisfactory.

What competitions are there?

Friday Nights

- The Eastside Competition (March and May)
- Social Debates (Term 2, various dates)
- GPS Competition (Week 1-7 of Term 3)

During School

- Premier's Debating Challenge (PDC)

When do the competitions start?

- The first debating competition of the year is called the Eastside Competition.
- It starts on **Friday, March 3.**
- It runs every Friday in March (5 weeks) and is at schools located in the eastern suburbs, hence the name...
- Teams for this comp will be determined in coaching when it commences.

What time do the debates start?

- In the Eastside Comp you will get one hour to prepare the debate, so you need to arrive at 5:45 pm, to prepare from 6-7 pm. The debate will start at 7 pm.
- In the GPS comp, you are given the topic in advance, but are still asked to arrive one hour earlier to spend on final preparations.

How long do debates go for?

- In year 7 you have a speaking time of 3-5 minutes.
- The length of the debate is dependent on how long each person speaks for.
- Some debates will be 15 mins, others the full 30-40 mins.

How do I know what the topic of the debate is?

- In the Eastside Comp, you will only know the TOPIC AREAS that the debate will be on.
- Before the debate we will announce the topic and toss a coin to determine the sides (affirmative or negative).
- Then you have one hour to prepare your case
- In GPS you will have the exact topic in advance.

How many boys do debating?

- Last year about 100 boys were in debating, about 50 from year 7.
- Debating is growing in popularity because it is fun, helps you to learn about the world and to practise thinking on your feet and verbalising your ideas.
- We have 3 coaches so you will receive a high level of assistance when you are starting out.

Will I get an opportunity to debate?

- Of course!
- We established the Eastside Competition in 2005 especially to provide more opportunities for younger levels to debate before the GPS season starts.
- We give everyone a shot at debating before we select the GPS teams in Term 2.

How do I get into a team?

- We will hold selections or try outs.
- Selections for GPS and PDC teams are held in coaching and teams are announced at the end of term 2.
- A student's performance in pre-season debates, availability to attend debates and their conduct in coaching all contribute to the selection process.
- More detail will be provided closer to the time.

Do I need a blazer for debating?

- No. You just need to be well presented with your hair neat, shirt in, shoes clean and tie done up to the top button
- If you have a blazer, you should definitely be wearing it.

The reward for debating: Student Awards Scheme

- The awards scheme encourages and recognises the participation of students in a wide range of activities.
- Students can gain points in debating for
 - Attending at least 70% of coaching
 - Being in a GPS or PDC Team
 - Attending 2 Opens debates as a spectator
 - Chairing a debate

The Season Calendar

- The Calendar for all debating dates this year has been distributed to you and is posted on the website.

www.sydneyhigh.org.au/debating

- Please put the dates in your school diary and ensure your parents have a copy.

More information

- Keeping up to date with debating news is very important.
- **Read the website and look at the notice board** before you come and ask me about things.
- Once you have registered for debating you will be emailed information regularly. Make sure you check your email!