

Build **SKILLS** that advance **CAREERS**

Speech and debate students can master the skills employers value most.

*Speech and debate is competitive speaking, acting, and debating.

Speech and debate gives students the skills to excel in whatever profession they choose. From Supreme Court justices and politicians to doctors, lawyers, teachers, and actors, countless alums credit speech and debate as a crucial tool in their tool box. Students compete in over 10 different public speaking and acting events and five debate events across the country.

The National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) is the largest speech and debate organization in the United States, supporting interscholastic tournaments, schools, coaches, and students since 1925.

“In today’s world, the knowledge explosion makes constant learning an inevitability. But all adults today need to **be able to communicate with clarity, to articulate ideas, to reason, to separate key facts from the barrage of ideas we all are exposed to every day. No single activity can prepare one better than debating**—the ability to think on one’s feet, to form conclusions rapidly, to answer questions logically and with clarity, to summarize ideas are all processes which forensics activity develops.”

— HELEN WISE
former President,
National Education Association





A LinkedIn survey of more than 660+ million professionals revealed the most in-demand soft skills in 2020. Here's how speech and debate helps students master them:



Critical Thinking

In competitive speech and debate, students engage written texts to assemble their evidence-based persuasive arguments. By analyzing texts, anticipating opposition, and persuading different individuals, students find connections among interdisciplinary concepts and present cohesive arguments.



Communication

Every student who competes in speech and debate enhances their verbal, written, and oral communication skills. Through consistent feedback and repetition, students explore the power of rhetoric and make strides in their persuasive capabilities. Speech and debate enables students to channel their fears and convey messages to small and large audiences.



Adaptability

Students learn to think on their feet and tailor a performance to a given audience.



Emotional Intelligence

Students learn to examine both sides of an issue and to use appropriate strategies for questioning things they do not understand.



Collaboration

Students who compete on a speech and debate team work both individually and collaboratively with their teammates, coaches, and adult adjudicators.



Creativity

Students are empowered to make artistic choices about how they bring words to life. Speech and debate fosters a student's ability to use imagination to share others' narratives, portray their own or others' lives, and convince audiences of something meaningful to them.



Persuasion

Students learn how to best convince an audience in the face of equally well-informed, persuasive competition.



Bring **SPEECH & DEBATE**
to your school:

www.speechanddebate.org/how-to-pitch-a-program

Questions? Contact the Director of School Recruitment: elisha.roberts@speechanddebate.org