

# Harangue

## The Debaters Association of Victoria's Magazine for Students

In this issue...

Preparing a case

Thinking about topics

Win with the *Harangue* quiz

...and much more!

Dear students,

Welcome to the Junior Secondary Program! This program will teach you how to debate well through a combination of training and debating.

*Harangue* is a magazine published each round for senior debaters in the Schools Competition. This special edition (*Harangue Junior*) will help you learn more about debating and hone the skills that you've learned in training.

Debating is an incredibly rewarding experience that, as well as being great fun, will serve you very well in other areas of life. You'll gain the ability to think clearly about issues, and to express your opinions in a way that makes other people listen to what you have to say. As well as the benefits to your schoolwork, being able to speak with confidence is an important skill for life.

We hope you enjoy the debates you participate in. Remember that, win or lose, the important thing is to learn something. If you don't understand what the adjudicator has said, or if you have any questions at all, please approach the adjudicator after the debate. They're all very friendly people and will be happy to answer your questions.

Please get in touch if you have any questions about the Junior Secondary Program. We'd love to hear about your experience in the Program, so please let us know what you liked or didn't like, and any suggestions you have for next year.

Good luck in your debates, and have fun!

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### JSP Schedule

**Night 1 - Basic Training**

**Night 2 - Debate 1 & Exhibition Debate**

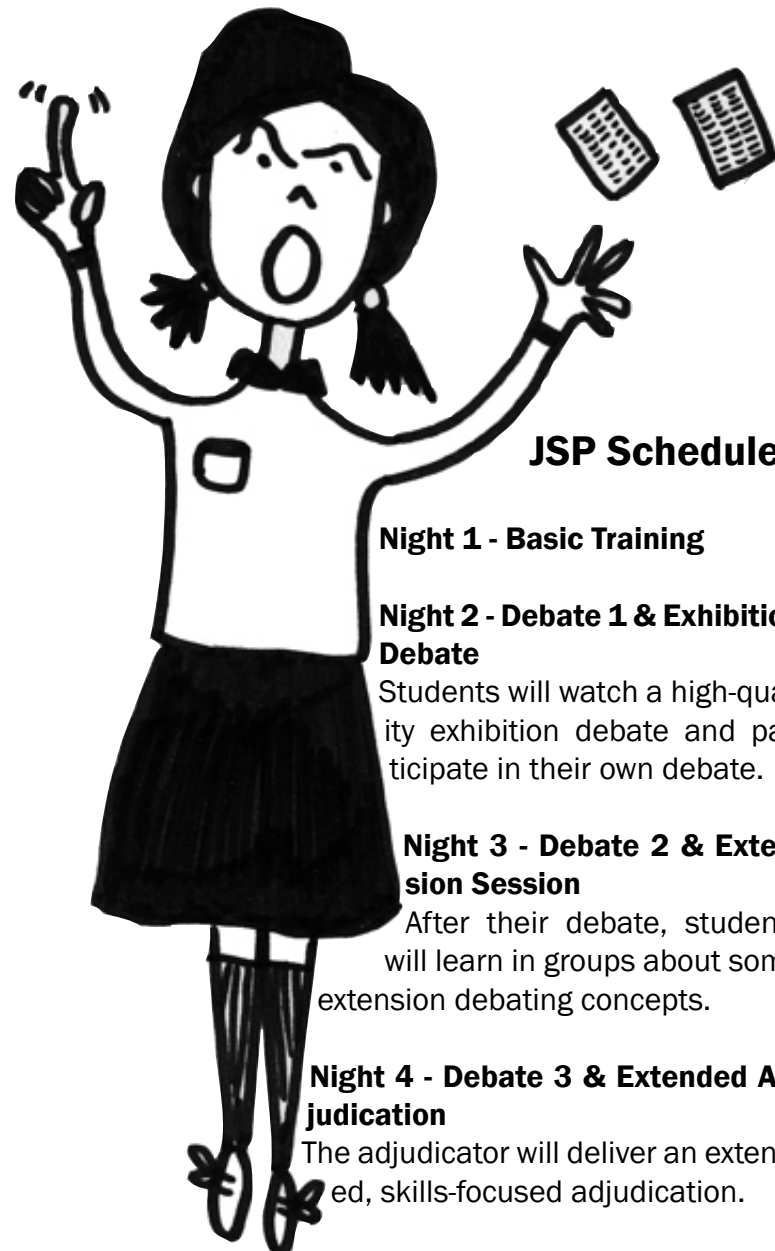
Students will watch a high-quality exhibition debate and participate in their own debate.

**Night 3 - Debate 2 & Extension Session**

After their debate, students will learn in groups about some extension debating concepts.

**Night 4 - Debate 3 & Extended Adjudication**

The adjudicator will deliver an extended, skills-focused adjudication.



## Topics

Here are the topics for each round, and some questions to think about while preparing for your debate.

### Round 1: That smoking should be illegal.

- Why does the government make something illegal?
- Who would be affected by a ban on smoking?
- How important is personal choice?
- Are there similar activities which have been banned or not been banned? How does this affect the debate?

### Round 2: That beauty is better than brains.

- What are the advantages of beauty and brains?
- How will you compare the two?
- How might we decide whether one thing is better than another?

### Round 3: That we should have video surveillance in all public places.

- What are the benefits and drawbacks of video surveillance?
- If you've done nothing wrong, do you have anything to hide?
- Why is privacy important? Do we have a right to privacy?



## How to Prepare a Case

By Catherine Dunlop

**1. Brainstorm:** every member of the team writes down all the ideas, arguments, and information that they know about the topic.

**2. Discuss:** you should discuss the issues and throw around ideas using the notes from the brainstorming. Debaters should be able to criticise other ideas freely and should ask for clarification. This is the time for all members of the team to get an understanding of the topic and the general approach that the team will take. You should end up with a list of possible arguments.

**3. Define:** the team should decide on their approach to the topic. What will you be arguing about? In what context - Australia, overseas, generally, or a specific case? The exact definition does not need to be worked out, but everyone should agree on what the debate will be about. You should make sure that everyone on the team can defend the definition if attacked.

**4. Refine:** the team should work out which arguments they want to use. You should work out examples to prove them, ensure that none of the arguments contradict each other, and discuss the

anticipated rebuttal. There should be a good list of arguments, maybe in order from strongest argument to weakest.

**5. Split:** you should work out how you will divide the arguments between speakers. The first and second speakers may want to divide up the main arguments according to which they prefer, and then try to group the other arguments around them in themes.

**6. Restate the definition:** the whole team should then work out the exact wording of the definition. Each speaker must understand and agree with the definition.

**7. Decide on a team line:** a team line is a statement that encapsulates the team's approach to the topic, and what the team wants to prove. It does not need to be long, and does not need to be repeated by each speaker. It should be used by each team member to check that all your arguments go to proving the team line. It is useful to make sure that all your arguments are consistent.

**8. Write your speeches:** with all of the above done, you are now in an excellent position to write your speech and flesh out your arguments before the debate.

## Word Find

E C C I M C P N N Y R A M M U S  
 U M U T O T D V L J D N A A D U  
 I I T E I N T S E J D O H T E M  
 N T S T R U C T U R E I T B B A  
 E N C E C N E D I V E T A R A N  
 G L H A F F I R M A T I V E T N  
 A N O I T C U D O R T N I B E E  
 T S I R A N C M U T O I S U E R  
 I A S T R T O A O S E F E T S N  
 V I O I S E R C R D E E R T P L  
 E R L L S O K E E G E D U A E T  
 L R I P J I P A T Y U L T L C T  
 P I N S O R E N E T E M S U M V  
 M Y E M I L A U G P A R E U I L  
 A Y D A N A L Y S I S M G N U M  
 X C H E C O N C L U S I O N T M  
 E C R T T G R E O T L E O U E T

ADJUDICATOR  
 CHAIRPERSON  
 EVIDENCE  
 INTRODUCTION  
 MODEL  
 SPEAKER ROLE

AFFIRMATIVE  
 CONCLUSION  
 EXAMPLE  
 MANNER  
 NEGATIVE  
 STRUCTURE

ANALYSIS  
 DEBATE  
 EYE CONTACT  
 MATTER  
 REBUTTAL  
 SUMMARY

ARGUMENT  
 DEFINITION  
 GESTURES  
 METHOD  
 SIGNPOSTING  
 TEAM SPLIT

### Understanding Your Scoresheet

After each of your debates, you'll receive a copy of the adjudicator's scores for each speaker and team. Every individual score is divided into three areas:

#### **Matter**

Your matter score is a mark based on what you said. Arguments which are relevant, logical, and clearly explained will lead to a high matter score.

#### **Method**

Method reflects these factors: did you speak to the time limit? Did you fulfill your speaker role? Did you engage with the opposition's arguments?

#### **Manner**

The manner score is an assessment of how you spoke (rather than what you said). Speaking naturally and with confidence leads to high manner scores.

Although the scoresheet gives a useful summary of strengths and weaknesses, debates are marked within a very tight range of scores. The most useful feedback you can get is to listen carefully to your adjudicator, and ask them if you have any questions.

## What next?

Next year, you can use all the skills that you've learned in this program when debating in the Debaters Association of Victoria's Schools Competition. With schools from all over the state participating, this is the largest English-language debating competition in the world. As well as five rounds of debates for everyone, there is a finals series for each year level, with one team named State Champion in each grade.

After high school, you can keep debating at University. Australian debaters have a very strong reputation at international debating competitions.

## Glossary

**Affirmative** The team speaking in favour of the topic

**Analysis** Explaining why a statement is correct — the how and why

**Definition** Clarification of any controversial words in the topic

**Manner** The presentation of arguments (body language, eye contact, etc.)

**Matter** The content of arguments (logic, relevance)

**Model** A practical implementation of the topic

**Negative** The team speaking against the topic

**Rebuttal** Arguments made directly against the opposing team's arguments

**Signposting** Making it clear to the audience what each argument will be about

**Speaker role** The specific tasks each speaker must perform, such as definitions, rebuttal, etc.

**Team split** The division of arguments between the first and second speaker

**For more training materials and information, visit the DAV website: <http://www.dav.com.au>**

## The Harangue Quiz - Win!

Send your answers to these eleven questions to the DAV by October 20th — the best answers will **win a \$50 iTunes gift card!** You can send your answers by email to [debater@dav.com.au](mailto:debater@dav.com.au), or post them to PO Box 2125, Royal Melbourne Hospital, VIC 3050. Thanks to Jonathan Benney (Vice-President, Adjudication and Training) for compiling the questions.

1. If you are on the affirmative team in a debate, and the negative team disagrees with your definition, what should you do?

2. How many countries in the world use nuclear energy to generate power? Name some people who think nuclear power should be used in Australia.

3. Who could you complain to if there were too many traffic accidents near your school?

4. What is the most interesting book you have read so far this year? Why is it interesting?

5. A madman who has threatened to explode several bombs in crowded areas has been arrested. Unfortunately, he has already planted the bombs and they are scheduled to go off soon. It is possible that hundreds of people may die. The authorities cannot make him divulge the location of the bombs. He refuses to say anything and requests

a lawyer to protect his right against self-incrimination. In exasperation, a high level official suggests torture. This would be illegal, of course, but the official thinks that it is the right thing to do in this desperate situation. Do you agree? If you do, would it also be morally justifiable to torture the mad bomber's innocent wife if that is the only way to make him talk? Why?

6. What is the most commonly spoken language in the world? How do you say "hello" in it?

7. What are the speaking times for the DAV A Grade Schools Competition? When were they changed, and what were they previously?

8. Do you think that professional sportspeople who have been caught drink-driving should be allowed to play for their club? Why or why not?

9. What is the poorest country in the world? How do you think it could become richer?

10. How long is the Great Barrier Reef? Name one threat to its existence.

11. Suggest a motto for the Debaters Association of Victoria.

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