

TEACHER IN-SERVICE

A professional
development program for
teachers and debating
coordinators

Secondary - 9am-3pm

Primary - 3:30pm-5pm

Friday 27 February 2026

Stamford Plaza Hotel, Little
Collins St, Melbourne



Debaters

Association of Victoria Inc.

Debating promotes confidence

in oral presentation and teaches structured argument and analysis—skills essential far beyond debating itself. Through debating, students can learn how to work in a team and to argue with confidence and precision. Debating also encourages awareness about the world at large as students grapple with challenging issues.

The Debaters Association of Victoria's Teacher Inservice is an excellent opportunity to learn about debating and to develop the skills to pass this knowledge on to students in classrooms, or coach them to success in competitions. The Inservice will provide an array of useful hints, practical tips, activities, real life applications, and examples.

Who should attend?

Debating coordinators, English teachers, librarians, team coaches and anyone interested in debating.

- Adjudicator's advice on how to prepare and present debating and public speaking speeches
- Tips on how to adjudicate debates and coach a debating team; and
- An explanation of how adjudicators determine scores and results.



You will also receive a comprehensive set of materials to use throughout the year.

PROGRAM

9:00 AM

Registration and Welcome

9:15 AM

**Session 1: Introduction to
Debating**

10:30 AM

Morning tea

11:00 AM

**Session 2: Advanced Debating
Strategy**

12:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 PM

**Session 3: Introduction to
Adjudication**

3:00 PM

Afternoon tea

3:30 PM

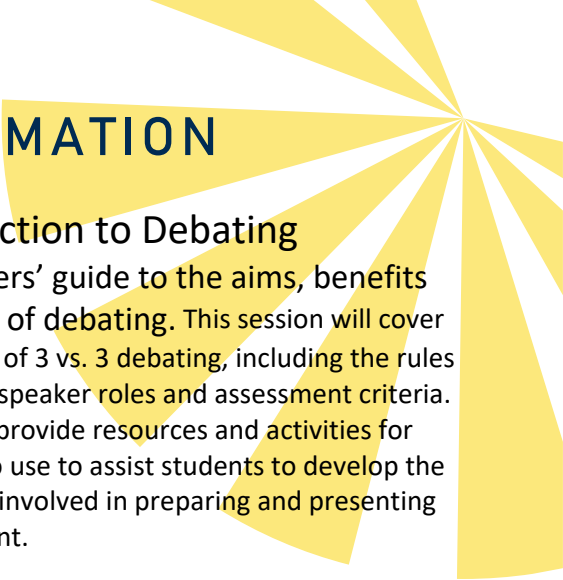
**Session 4: Introduction to
Debating (Primary)**

5:00pm

End of Day



SESSION INFORMATION



Introduction to Debating

A beginners' guide to the aims, benefits and rules of debating. This session will cover the format of 3 vs. 3 debating, including the rules of debate, speaker roles and assessment criteria. It will also provide resources and activities for teachers to use to assist students to develop the basic skills involved in preparing and presenting an argument.

Introduction to Adjudication

The adjudication sessions will teach how to judge debates in a fair and consistent fashion and will focus on the three key criteria which adjudicators use in deciding debates:

manner, matter and method. By explaining the criteria adjudicators use to judge a debate, the session aims to aid staff in understanding what is required of students. This will ensure that they can make the most of the feedback they are given by adjudicators.

Advanced Debating Strategy

This session aims to extend on previous debating knowledge. It will look at advanced research techniques and present ideas for enhancing rebuttal. As well as looking at how to improve presentation, we will also examine the principles involved in building a case – hard/soft lines, use of models, and winning definitional debates.

What Previous Participants Say...

The DAV has run similar **in-services** since 2003. *Teachers from Government, Catholic, and independent schools across Victoria have attended.* Some teachers had not seen a debate; others had been involved in debating for decades. Here are some typical comments from those teachers:

"One of the best PD days that I have ever attended. It was very useful and interesting with practical advice on how to conduct debates in school."

"I was extremely impressed by this PD—it was informative, helpful, thought-provoking and well planned. I can't praise it enough!"

"An open and practical session that gave good advice and illuminated some aspects of the mysteries of adjudication"

"Very informative and interesting—As a first year coordinator I feel it's a critical intro into DAV debating"

To Register

To register, please fill out the online registration form by

Friday 20 February 2026

http://www.dav.com.au/resources/inservice_registration.php

Cost \$285 for three sessions
(includes all materials, arrival tea/coffee, morning tea and lunch)

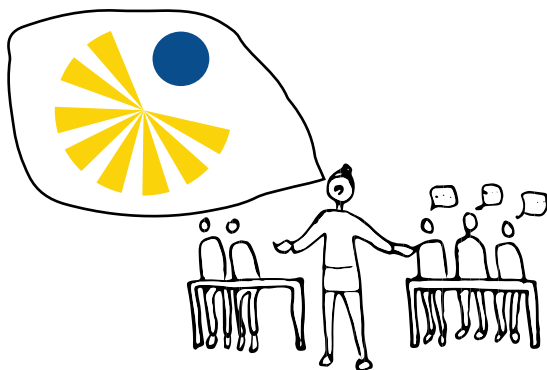
\$205 for two sessions
(includes morning/afternoon tea and lunch)

\$125 for one session
(includes morning tea/afternoon tea or lunch)

Places are strictly limited and will fill up fast, so please get in early to guarantee your place. **Discounts are available for multiple registrations from the same school.**

We will invoice your school at the close of registration.

Cancellations received within 5 business days of the program will be charged at the full registration rate.



Debaters Association of Victoria

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