The Debaters Association of Victoria
Junior Secondary Program 2025

The Junior Secondary Program (JSP) is an introduction to debating for junior secondary students in years 7 and 8 who have not participated in the DAV Schools Competition. The program is designed to provide training in the basic skills and structure of debating whilst also giving students an opportunity to participate in three 'friendly' inter-school debates.

The JSP runs over four evenings in Terms 3/4 in various regions throughout Victoria. The training component of the program includes:

Introductory training

DAV trainers will introduce students to the art of persuasion and look at how debates work. Students will learn how to formulate arguments, how to define topics, and the role of each speaker in a debate.

The best way to consolidate skills is with interactive activities, so the training component includes various games where students work in smaller groups.

Demonstration debate

DAV adjudicators will act as debaters in an exhibition debate, showcasing high quality speeches to provide practical examples of what the students are taught.

Rebuttal seminars

After students have participated in an actual debate, they will take part in an extension training session in which they will work with trainers to discuss the role of rebuttal and different ways of approaching it.

Extended adjudication

Following the final debate, adjudicators will spend extra time giving feedback to students which aims to consolidate the skills learnt in the training component of the program.

More details about the JSP schedule can be found on the following page.

When?

Dates: Regions run across 4 evenings on various dates in Terms 3/4. The dates for each region can be found on the DAV website.

Times: Each school will be allocated a starting time of *either 6pm or 7pm*.

Fees

Teams 1: $175 per team
Teams 2: $185 per team
Teams 3: $195 per team
Teams 4: $210 per team

(Minimum of 4 and maximum of 7 students per team)

Registration

Coordinators can register teams through this form.

Registration for programs beginning in Term 3 will close 4pm, Monday 21 July.

Registration for programs beginning in Term 4 will close 4pm on Monday 6 October.

DAV Office

Contact Details
Phone: 9348 9477
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Debaters
Association of Victoria

2025 Junior Secondary Program
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Each participating school will be allocated to *either* Group A or B at the close of the registration period. This allocation will dictate the schedule for each of the 4 evenings.

Group A
5:45pm Arrival

Training Night

On the first evening of the program, students participate in training seminars and skills workshops to gain a basic understanding of debating.

Start: 6:00pm
Finish: 7:00pm

Round 1

Students will begin the evening with a debate. Following this, they will watch a demonstration debate by DAV adjudicators and participate in a short debriefing session.

Start: 6:00pm
Finish: 7:30pm

Round 2

Students will begin with an extension training seminar before participating in another debate.

Start: 6:00pm
Finish: 7:30pm

Round 3

Students will take part in a debate and then receive an extended adjudication which aims to consolidate the skills covered in the training components of the program.

Start: 6:00pm
Finish: 7:00pm

Group B
6:45pm Arrival

Training Night

On the first evening of the program, students participate in training seminars and skills workshops to gain a basic understanding of debating.

Start: 7:00pm
Finish: 8:00pm

Round 1

Students will begin the evening by watching a demonstration debate by DAV adjudicators and participating in a short debriefing session. Following this, they will take part in a debate.

Start: 7:30pm
Finish: 8:30pm

Round 2

Students will begin with an extension training seminar before participating in another debate.

Start: 7:00pm
Finish: 8:30pm

Round 3

Students will take part in a debate and then receive an extended adjudication which aims to consolidate the skills covered in the training components of the program.

Start: 7:00pm
Finish: 8:00pm

Debaters Association of Victoria