

The Debaters Association of Victoria

Junior Secondary Program 2026

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 seminar

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.

Case set up seminar

Students will take part in an extension training session in which they will work with trainers to discuss how to approach different types of topic, including how to use models and countermodels.

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: \$180 per team
Teams 2: \$191.50 per team
Teams 3: \$200 per team
Teams 4: \$220 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 4 will close 4pm on Monday 6 October.

DAV Office

Contact Details

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2026 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

Round 0 (Training Night)

Students will participate in a short training workshop to gain a basic understanding of debating. 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 1

Students will begin with their second debate, followed by an extension training seminar covering rebuttal.

Start: 6:00pm

Finish: 7:30pm

Round 2

Students will begin with their first debate, followed by an extension training seminar covering debate set up.

Start: 6:00pm

Finish: 7:30pm

Round 3

Students will take part in a debate reconvene as a group for the announcement of undefeated teams and high achieving speakers.

Start: 6:00pm

Finish: 7:00pm

Group B

6:30pm Arrival

Round 0 (Training Night)

Students will watch a demonstration debate by DAV adjudicators and participate in a short debriefing session. Following this, they will participate in a short training workshop to gain a basic understanding of debating.

Start: 6:45pm

Finish: 8:15pm

Round 1

Students will begin with an extension training seminar covering rebuttal before participating in their first debate.

Start: 6:45pm

Finish: 8:15pm

Round 2

Students will begin with an extension training seminar covering debate set up before participating in their first debate.

Start: 6:45pm

Finish: 8:15pm

Round 3

Students will take part in a debate reconvene as a group for the announcement of undefeated teams and high achieving speakers.

Start: 6:45pm

Finish: 7:45pm