



## Christian School Speech & Debate

### FAQ's

#### I. What is LFA?

Founded in 2008, the Logos Forensic Association (LFA) is the only competitive speech and debate league designed exclusively for private Christian schools.

Unlike other high school debate leagues, the LFA is more than just an extracurricular or academic activity. The goal of the LFA is to train and equip the next generation of Christians who will represent Christ in every field.

#### II. Why should my school compete in speech & debate?

The LFA assists Christian schools with speech and debate competition because the forensic activity provides a plethora of lifelong benefits in training students to be leaders for Christ.

Additionally, debate involves students in public policy discussions helping them to better understand civics and become informed citizens.

Lastly, the difference this activity can make in a student's life is quite remarkable... especially in terms of skillset, character, leadership, and worldview development.

#### III. Who can participate?

Speech and debate is primarily a high school activity (grades 9-12). However, junior high students (grades 7-8) can participate as well. Currently, there isn't a novice and varsity division. All students compete together no matter their grade or age.

For debate, two students constitute a team. For speech, only one student is necessary as those are individual events. You can have as little or as many competitors as is suitable for your school. A large club is not necessary to compete.

#### IV. Is this a class or a club?

You can structure speech and debate as either a before / after-school club or as an actual class. It's up to you and whatever works better for your school and students. Members of the league operate both ways.

## V. What events are offered?

Within the league, there are several events. Students can participate in as many events as they desire. For debate, students pair up in teams of two. For speech, students compete individually. Below is a brief synopsis of each event:

**Team Policy Debate:** current public policy issues serve as topics for the debate. Each year features a different public policy issue on which students research and use to form both affirmative and negative arguments.

**Apologetics:** encourages competitors to study, articulate, and defend the core foundations of Christianity in a knowledgeable, sincere, and respectful manner.

**Impromptu:** designed to test the quick thinking of students in a 5 minute speech.

**Monologue:** the competitor interprets a monologue from a single published source.

**Open Interpretation:** an original rendition by the competitor from published or unpublished literature and/or self-written work. Presentations range from dramatic to humorous genres and may include narrative storytelling or thematic compilations.

**Persuasive:** a 10 minute original work by the student designed to persuade the audience on a topic of the student's choosing.

## VI. What competition is provided?

The tournament season begins in October and concludes in April. Tournaments are hosted by both the league and member schools. Most competition is in-person with a few tournaments online to reduce travel costs. Each member school is encouraged (but not required) to host one tournament per season. As a league, the LFA hosts six tournaments per season (three per semester). Two are in-person and four are virtual.

## VII. Is there training available?

To help new members get started, the season kicks-off with an online Coaches Academy before the school year begins. This introductory training academy best prepares schools for a successful program. Additionally, each coach is provided with a 5<sup>th</sup> edition *Rhetoric Through Policy Debate* workbook, a syllabus, quizzes, online courses, printed documents, exercises, and personal one-on-one support.

## VIII. What does membership cost?

School membership dues are \$300 per season. Student membership dues are \$60 per student per season. In-person tournament entry fees are separate from membership dues and are priced according to each tournament host. Membership includes all training, support, competition, virtual events, and resources. There are no surprise costs or hidden fees. The league also offers a free trial option and a referral discount.