

## Welcome to the 2025-26 Season!

We hope you had a good summer and are eager to debate! Our first event is the Novice Scrimmage on September 27, with the invitation to go out on September 15!

There are several issues that need your urgent attention. You may either reply to this email or fill out this [Google form](#).

### CDA Checklist and Survey Questions

1. Attached please find the [CDA Dues Form](#) for this year. It is also available on the CDA website. Dues are \$250 the same as last year. Payments are made care of the Connecticut Association of Schools. Please read the dues form carefully and follow the instructions so your school's payment is properly credited. We ask you pay no later than December 31, 2025.
2. Every school must acknowledge the [CDA Code of Conduct](#) and agree to abide by it. Please review the Code with your team and acknowledge acceptance on the google form.
3. Attached please find the tentative [CDA Calendar](#). The dates are firm. We would like to have two hosts for each tournament date, ideally well-distributed geographically. If you would like to host, please indicate your preferred date. If you would like more information on hosting, please email CDA.
4. CDA is always in need of more trained staffers. If you would like to learn how to run tab, teach the judges workshop or serve on the Board, help with training, please so indicate.

## Early Season Tournament Information

### Novice Scrimmage

The Novice Scrimmage will be held on September 27. We will release the packet for the Novice Scrimmage on Monday, September 15, at 8AM with the invitation. This will allow you to work with your novice debaters for two weeks before the Scrimmage.

We realize September 27 is very early in the year. Some find it hard to organize their team this early, or are reluctant to expose their new debaters to competition without more preparation. Keep in mind:

- Everyone is in the same boat. All the debaters at the scrimmage are new to debate.
- The Scrimmage is not a competition. It is an opportunity to see a Varsity debate and then practice what you've seen. It is the only such opportunity before the October Tournament.
- You can only learn to debate by debating and watching other debaters. Your debaters will benefit more from the Scrimmage than from months of preparation.

### Harvard Season Opener

The Harvard College Debating Union is offering a Season Opener tournament with a parliamentary division on August 30-31. This tournament is new this year, and will be online. This is Labor Day weekend, and before school starts for most, but you returning Varsity debaters may be interested. Details are available on the [Harvard Season Opener](#) tournament page on Tabroom.

### Yale Invitational

The Yale Invitational is scheduled for Sep. 19-21 this year. This is the premier debate event in Connecticut every year, attracting competitors from across the US and from other countries. You may

download a detailed invitation from the [Yale Invitational](#) tournament page on Tabroom. The Parliamentary division is a great opportunity for CDA varsity debaters. In addition to Parli, they have also added a World Schools division this year, which is an international parliamentary debate format that is gaining popularity in the US. Registration opens on July 31.

## Training Material and Other Debate Leagues

### New York Parliamentary Debate League

The NYPD is a student-run parliamentary debate league composed primarily of New York City schools, but open to participants from anywhere. Their schedule includes an in-person and an online tournament each month, on separate dates. Some of these conflict with CDA dates, but many do not. The online tournaments have been free and tend to attract debaters from across the nation. The NYPD uses the same parli format as CDA, but the motions change for each round and prep time is limited to 15 minutes. They do a very good job of running events and selecting topics. It is a great opportunity for debaters want to improve their skills.

See the [NYPD website](#) for information, their schedule, and a growing library of training material.

### National Parliamentary Debate League

The NPDL's mission is to organize parliamentary debate across the US. They run two online tournaments, one in October and one in March, open to league members. A debater's performance at qualifying tournaments earns points towards qualifying for their annual Tournament of Champions (usually in person). The NPDL also has a library of training material. For more information see the [NPDL website](#).

### Free Debate Textbooks

The CDA website has a [Training Material](#) page with CDA-specific informational and educational material. For a wider-world exploration of debate, the [International Debate Education Association website](#) has a Resources page that includes a variety of debate texts, many of which can be downloaded as PDFs at no charge. If you are looking for a debate text for yourself or your students, I recommend the following:

- John Meany and Kate Shuster, *Art, Argument, and Advocacy*. This is a standard text using the 7-8-8-8-4-5, 2-on-2 parli format.
- Simon Quinn, *Debating in the World School's Style*. My favorite text because it is written from a debater's point of view. Ignore the material discussing the 3-on-3 World School's parli format and savor the insights into case construction and argumentation.
- Steven L. Johnson, *Winning Debates*. Aimed at college students engaged in World University debate, which uses the British Parliamentary format with 4 teams of 2 debaters each. Again, ignore the format issues. This text is another step up in sophistication and insight.

If you need information, have any questions, would like to comment, please [contact me](#).

Thanks.

Everett