



Spring Session A

Speech and Debate

Grade school, Middle School, High School

Please mark your calendars! No class January 17th

By encouraging an open forum for the exchange of ideas, we hope to foster an environment that provides a format for students to express their thoughts, improve their learning skills, and enhance their natural leadership abilities. Academy of Higher Learning has over 15 years experience teaching competitive speech and debate. Many of our debaters have accumulated top awards in local, state, national and international level tournaments, earning us the reputation as one of the top places to learn speech and debate. Not only do our students have a long history of success but *many of* our alumni have also been accepted into some of the most prestigious universities across the nation. To sign up for classes, please fill out an application for the spring session on our website www.AcademyofHigherLearning.com and submit tuition by Zelle (neverknowntofail@aol.com) or Venmo (Tiya-Basilio).



Classes held online and in person at:
La Canada Montrose Community Center
4469 Chevy Chase Dr, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011



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Our classes are for all students from beginner to advanced. Each session (except summer) consists of ten sessions. If your student has to miss a class, he or she can attend any of our classes during the week for their grade range below; however all make-ups must be done within the current semester and cannot be transferred into the following session. The last day for makeup is the last day of the last session. For new students entering in the middle of the session, classes missed will be prorated to reflect the remaining amount of classes. Please note that all sessions are non-refundable. Our courses are ongoing for fall, winter, spring and summer. To see a list of available tournaments from novice to advanced, scroll down below.



In Person Classes

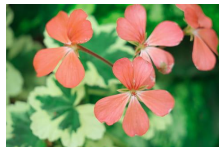


Debate Classes- Debate can improve high-order critical thinking skills and research methodologies. Also, it expands critical knowledge in a number of areas such as sociology, philosophy, economics, political science and history.

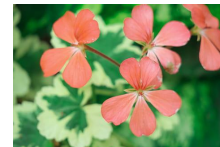
La Crescenta Location:

(10 sessions, spring semester)

Mixed (8th-12th)	Su	1:30-3:30 PM	01/12-03/16	\$610
Grade School (3rd-5th)	Su	3:30-5:30 PM	01/12-03/16	\$610
Middle School (6th-8th)	Fr	4:30-6:30 PM	01/10-03/14	\$610



Virtual Classes



(10 sessions)

High School (mixed)	Tu	6:00-8:00 PM	01/14-03/18	\$600
High School	W	6:00-8:00 PM	01/15-03/19	\$600



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SPRING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Note: *Students are not officially entered in the tournament until the entry fee has been paid. You can sign up by going to our website (<https://www.academyofhigherlearning.com/services>) under tournaments. Many tournaments fill up quickly. If your student would like to drop a tournament, once signed up, we must be informed **two weeks** prior to the tournament or all entry fees will be forfeited. Students may still attend sessions if they are signed up for a tournament with their school and not Academy of Higher Learning. Fees may be discounted if parents volunteer to judge as noted below. Judges can sign up on the website above. Training will be provided for all judges, however the discount will be forfeited if the parent does not show up to rounds.*

HIGH SCHOOL

Stanford Invitational

When: 2/08-2/10

What: Speech and Debate

Where: NSDA Campus (online)

Cost: \$500 (LD Debate) You can minus \$250 if a parent volunteers to judge or can provide an adult judge.

Claremont Wolfpack Invitational

When: 2/08-2/10

What: Speech and Debate

Where: Claremont High School (in person)

Cost: \$200

Berkeley Invitational

When: 2/15-2/17

Where: NSDA Campus

What: World Schools

Cost: \$100 (this is for world schools only as a team and is online)

USC ON CAMPUS

When: 3/16-3/17

What: Speech and Debate

Where: USC Campus (in person)

Cost: TBA

World Scholar's Cup (academic competition with a debate division)

When: May 3th-4th



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Where: La Salle College Preparatory in Pasadena (in person)

What: Academic Competition *See videos here:* <https://www.scholarscup.org/videos/>

Cost: TBA (more information will be posted closer to the event)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Stanford Invitational

When: 2/08-2/10

What: Speech and Debate

Where: NSDA Campus (online)

Cost: \$500 (minus \$250 if parent volunteers to judge or can provide a judge)

Claremont Wolfpack Invitational

When: 2/08-2/10

What: Speech and Debate

Where: Claremont High School (in person)

Cost: \$190

World Scholar's Cup (academic competition with a debate division)

When: May 3th-4th

Where: La Salle College Preparatory in Pasadena (in person)

What: Academic Competition *See videos here:* <https://www.scholarscup.org/videos/>

Cost: TBA (more information will be posted closer to the event)

The NOF (National Online Forensics Championship)

When: TBA (usually February)

What: Speech and Debate

Where: NSDA Campus (online)

Cost: TBA

GRADE SCHOOL

SCJFL Elementary Debate Tournament

When: 2/8

Where: Roosevelt Elementary School (in person)

What: Spar Debate and Speech



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Cost: \$100 for both (minus \$30 if parent would like to volunteer to judge)

World Scholar's Cup (academic competition with a debate division)

When: May 3th-4th

Where: La Salle College Preparatory in Pasadena

What: Academic Competition *See videos here:* <https://www.scholarscup.org/videos/>

Cost: TBA (more information will be posted closer to the event)

More tournaments will be announced as they come available!

About Speech and Debate

Core Concepts Learned in Debate

Public Speaking: Building skills to communicate effectively to audiences.

Argumentation: Introducing formal logic, common fallacies and argument construction.

Rhetoric: Understanding the role language plays in persuasion.

Rebuttal: Deconstructing opponents' arguments using various techniques.

Current Events: Studying the problems affecting the global community.

Critical Thinking: Learning the skills needed to question assumptions and discover new ideas.

Why Debate?

According to "Forensics And College Admission" by Yale University professor Minh A. Luong, state and national debate winners have a 22% to 30% higher acceptance rate at top tier colleges and universities than the average student, compared with school newspaper reporters (+3%), sports team captains (+5%), class presidents (+5%), and band members (+3%).

“Regression analyses were used to assess the association between debate participation and graduation and ACT performance. Overall, debaters were 3.1 times more likely to graduate from high school (95% confidence interval: 2.7–3.5) than non-debaters, and more likely to reach the college-readiness benchmarks in English, Reading, and Science portions of the ACT.”-Journal of Adolescents

Debaters have a more extensive history of professional success than participants in any other extra-curricular academic activity; the following is a short list of former debaters whom you might recognize: - Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Bill Clinton - Hillary Rodham Clinton, former New York senator, presidential candidate and Secretary of State - Samuel Alito, Stephen Breyer, and Antonin Scalia, Supreme Court Justices -



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Richard Lugar, Evan Bayh, Jr. and Lamar Alexander, U.S. Senators - Phil Gramm, Bob Graham, George McGovern, Hubert Humphrey, and Edmund Muskie, former U.S. Senators - Ted Turner, owner of CNN - Oprah Winfrey, world renowned media entrepreneur - Margaret Thatcher and John Major, former Prime Ministers of Great Britain



About the Teacher

Ms. Basilio, a graduate from UCLA, is a debate coach with over 18 years of experience. Throughout the years, her high school students have earned 1st and 2nd place awards for all of the state-wide invitationals entered, including Stanford, Long Beach, USC, Fullerton, Cal Lutheran, Berkeley and many more. In the National Junior Forensic League tournaments, her middle school students have ranked top four in the nation. Most recently, she coached the 2019 middle school state champion and the 2017, 2023 and 2024 high school nationals' winners. In addition, she coached numerous Stanford 1st place winners in Lincoln-Douglas debate and congress. In congress from 2011-2015 she coached all of the 1st place Winners at Stanford (Four Years Running). She's coached debate in both public and private schools. Her debate school received the School of Excellence Award in 2014-2015 from the National Speech and Debate Honor Society and her academic center earned the award for best learning center in Tarzana. Internationally, her students have earned 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 8th place awards during the KPDC World Championship debates in Turkey, Mexico and Ireland, competing against over fifty countries worldwide.





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