



NEW COACH TIMELINE

Beginning of School Year - Recruit

- Reach out to administrators, teachers, counselors and other coaches for recommendations on students they think would be good in debate and invite them to your first meeting.
- Advertise your meetings on your school's news and social media outlets. Print posters included at the end of this toolkit to display at school.
- Develop a system for students to sign up for competitions and rules to guide them if they have to drop. Be aware that some tournaments charge drop fees in addition to the entry, and include policies in your team guidelines to cover these fees.
- Make your team stronger by establishing strong parent relationships. Hold an informational meeting for parents. Parents can get involved by being potential judges or chaperones, and organizing carpools or hosting tournaments at your school.
- Encourage students to plan with the end in mind. Be sure students are aware of requirements to qualify for major tournaments like the state or national championship.
- Be aware of league membership and tournament registration deadlines and plan accordingly. Allow enough time when you close your sign ups for competitions to process a registration fee check.

Throughout School Year - Compete

- Keep parents and team members informed. It's important to have means to communicate specific tournament information to students, parents and judges.
- Register for tournaments efficiently and completely.

- Double check that competitors are registered in the correct events. Make sure you have enough judges to meet your quota.
- If needed, plan for and order meals in advance.
- Bring a registration check with you to the tournament. League officials will not be able to make change for cash payments.
- Be prepared - gather everything you need for tournament day ahead of time. Don't forget the competitor roster, list of judge names, registration checks, emergency contact information and bus driver contact information.
- Be aware of your students' performance pieces and debate cases. They represent your school and your team.
- Publicize successes!

End of School Year - Celebrate & Reward

- Plan an awards banquet. Have seniors present "Words of Wisdom" to their teammates. Words of Wisdom speeches are 3-5 minute speeches where the seniors offer their advice about how to be successful in school, in debate and in life.
- Select team leaders for next year.
- Plan next year's tournament calendar.
- Reflect on this year and make necessary changes to next year's plans.

Summer - Rest

- Attend summer professional development.
- Rest and recharge.

*Debate coaches can refer back to page 10 of this toolkit to see resources and policies that emphasize the opportunities for your debate students.
(For example, Bright Futures credits, Portraits in Patriotism and other resources.)*



Printable and downloadable assets are available at floridaeducationfoundation.org