



NYPDL Debate Summer Camp August 2026

Overview

The New York Parliamentary Debate League is incredibly excited to announce that we are holding our NYPDL Debate Summer Camp this August. This is a **free** and **fully virtual** camp open to anyone who is interested. The camp will run from August 7th - 9th. Information about the camp, including a sample schedule for the camp and details about daily activities, levels of instruction, information about the camp's technology, and registration information can be found in this document.

For any questions, reach out to nyparli@gmail.com. We hope you'll join us!

1. Registration and Deadlines

- **Campers** should register for camp no later than **August 3rd**. Register [here](#).
- Campers have the opportunity to register with a partner, with whom they will participate in practice rounds and lab activities. **Both partners need to fill out the form** and register themselves.

2. Sample Schedule

*See **Daily Structure** for further information about the schedule below.

*All times EST

*Subject to change

Friday, August 7th

10:30am—11:00am: Virtual Check-In & Camp Announcements

11:00am—1:00pm: Lab Groups — Part I

1:00pm—1:20pm: Screen Break

1:20pm—2:10pm: Daily Lectures

2:10pm—3:00pm: Screen Break / Lunch

3:00pm—4:30pm: Lab Groups — Part II(odd numbered labs)/Practice Round(even numbered labs)

4:30pm—4:45pm: Screen Break

4:45pm—6:15pm: Lab Groups — Part II(even numbered labs)/Practice Round(odd numbered labs)

6:15pm—7:00pm: Office Hours

Saturday, August 8th

10:30am—11:00am: Virtual Check-In & Camp Announcements

11:00am—1:00pm: Lab Groups — Part I

1:00pm—1:20pm: Screen Break

1:20pm—2:10pm: Daily Lectures

2:10pm—3:00pm: Screen Break / Lunch

3:00pm—4:30pm: Lab Groups — Part II(odd numbered labs)/Practice Round(even numbered labs)

4:30pm—4:45pm: Screen Break

4:45pm—6:15pm: Lab Groups — Part II(even numbered labs)/Practice Round(odd numbered labs)

6:15pm—7:00pm: Office Hours

Sunday, August 9th

10:30am—11:00am: Virtual Check-In & Camp Announcements

11:00 am—12:45pm: Camp Tournament Round 1

12:45pm—2:30pm: Camp Tournament Round 2

2:30pm—3:20pm: Lunch

3:20pm—5:05pm: Camp Tournament Round 3

5:05pm—5:45pm: Screen Break / NYPDL Q&A

5:45pm—7:30pm: Camp Tournament Final Round

3. DAILY STRUCTURE

The first two days of camp will run from *10:30am until 6:15pm EST*, with **office hours** available from *6:15pm - 7:00pm*. During the first two days, campers will primarily work within small groups called **labs**. Throughout the day, debaters will break from their labs for camp-wide **lectures** and a **practice round**.

On the final day of camp—August 11th—all campers will participate in an **in-house spar tournament**. Regular rounds for this tournament will last from *10:30am until 5:00pm*, after which there will be a camp conclusion and NYPDL Q&A, and then a finals round.

a. Check-In / Camp Announcements

At the beginning of every camp day, campers will enter the main camp Zoom room and check-in with staffers to confirm that they're present. After campers have checked in, all campers in attendance will briefly remain in the main camp Zoom call to hear announcements for the day. After this, the debating will commence!

b. Labs

Prior to the start of camp, attendees will have the option to either self-select or fill out a form to be placed into one of three debate experience divisions: novice, intermediate, or advanced.

See **Instruction Levels for more information about these divisions.**

Each division will consist of either one or multiple labs of around 10 debaters. When in their lab, campers will be working solely with debaters of their own level. Labs will be led by 1-3 experienced debaters and/or coaches, many of whom previously debated with great success in the NYPDL.

Each lab will spend their time differently—for instance, students in an advanced division lab might do drills on prepping difficult motions while students in a novice division lab might practice basic argumentation or refutation skills—but overarchingly, labs will teach skills and content to campers and then apply those skills using drills, activities, and small-group games. Since labs will be small, campers will get to know their lab leaders well, and lab leaders will work with their groups to optimize the value of the time they have together, shifting activities around to best fit the needs and desires of their campers.

c. Lectures

While debate is a logic-driven activity, real-world knowledge is a crucial part of effective oral advocacy! Campers will have the opportunity to listen to daily lectures from experts in specific fields relevant to debate, such as economics, international relations, or social activism. Additionally, debaters will have the opportunity to hear lectures from college debaters regarding the debate experience, including lectures on debating in college and maintaining healthy debate partnership dynamics. While all lectures will be recorded for viewing, campers will choose between an assortment of lectures to be followed by interactive Q&A sessions. Lectures are intended to improve the knowledge base of debaters and give them a chance to further explore their areas of interest.

d. Mock Rounds

Each day, students in the intermediate and advanced lab groups will participate in a practice round against other debaters in their division. Debaters will be spectated by a lab leader, who will give each debater extensive, personalized feedback and help each camper hone in on the skills practiced during morning and afternoon lab sessions.

e. Office Hours

After camp hours every day, campers will have the opportunity to meet individually or in partnerships with their lab leader(s) or any other staff members. Campers will likely use this time to further develop particular debate skills with the aid of personalized feedback from experienced staffers, although campers are welcome to book time with whomever about whatever — even if that simply be asking for some debate advice. Office hours are a fantastic way for campers to develop relationships with expert debaters and shape their camp experience so that they are able to get the best out of their time!

f. In-House Tournament

On the final day of camp, debaters will participate in a mock tournament where they'll put their skills to the test and compete in three rounds, culminating in a Grand Final. Debaters will have the opportunity to both participate in and watch rounds. The tournament will be a fantastic opportunity for debaters to practice the skills they acquire during camp and experiment in a low-stakes environment before diving into the NYPDL season!

4. Instruction Levels

As explained above, campers will work in small groups, or “labs,” throughout the camp. Campers will be divided into three lab divisions, **novice, intermediate, and advanced**, based on experience levels.

Campers will have the option to either self-select into a division using the criteria below or request to be manually placed by staff members.

1. Self Selection Criteria

Prospective campers will have the opportunity to self-evaluate their experience with debate and determine which level of lab would most suit their level of familiarity with parliamentary debate. Obviously, there are no hard-and-fast rules for what constitutes a “novice,” “intermediate,” or “advanced” debater, but we’d recommend campers follow the following guidelines:

- **NOVICE:** less than 1 year of debate experience (recommended for more experienced middle schoolers as well)
 - Novice groups will focus primarily on teaching the fundamentals of high school debate, such as how to construct arguments, how to give basic speeches in parliamentary debate, etc.
- **INTERMEDIATE:** between 1 and 2 years of debate experience
 - Intermediate groups will focus less on the foundations of debate but instead more-so on debate strategy, such as how to strengthen refutations, when to use backlash arguments, etc.
- **ADVANCED:** more than 2 years of debate experience
 - The advanced groups will focus on honing advanced debate skills, such as dealing with tricky frameworks or clever weighing strategies

5. Technology

Several Zoom calls (and breakout rooms) will be used throughout the course of camp. There will be a main Zoom call where campers will convene at the beginning of each day; subsequently, labs will break out into separate Zoom calls, and may further subdivide into breakout rooms for small-group activities. The main Zoom call will also be open throughout lunch. Additionally, lab leaders will have individual Zoom calls available during office hours.