



# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY DEBATE

A DEEPER LEARNING APPROACH TO DEBATE EDUCATION

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Debate Institution - “Snow Globe” Debates

Welcome to the **Snow Globe Debates**, which takes place on Saturday, December 16, 2023, from 5pm to 9pm (Eastern), which is on Sunday, December 17th in China/Korea. This will be a virtual event (Zoom) for students in grades 3-9 (grades 1-2 with permission). [[Event Details](#)].

Zoom Information (pw: **21stdebate**): [[Click Here](#)].

### [SCHEDULE] Tentative Schedule (Saturday, December 16, 2023):

[These times are listed as US, Pacific - ex. Los Angeles]

2:00 PM to 2:10 PM = Orientation for Competitors and Judges: [[Video](#)].

**[Public Forum Debate: Student Loan Forgiveness]:** [[Public Forum Debate Ballot](#)].

2:15 PM to 3:10 PM = PF Debate Round 1

3:20 PM to 4:15 PM = PF Debate Round 2

4:25 PM to 5:20 PM = PF Debate Round 3

**[Crossfire Champions: All grades!]:** [[“Crossfire Champions” Ballot](#)].

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM = Crossfire Champions.

Topic(s): *Mandatory National Service or Student Loan Forgiveness.*

This event is meant to be a fun experience for students and an excellent volunteer opportunity for the older and more experienced students as well. All are welcome and this “seasonal” event is open to everyone and some of the events are completely free. There will be prizes for the top teams, speakers, and Crossfire Champions. The essay and speech events did not have enough participants, so we will offer it again next time with better promotion for those.

We at the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Debate Institution believe debate education to be a powerful vehicle for delivering a deeper learning experience to our participants. We want this to be a low-stress, fun, and a meaningful learning/skill-building opportunity for everyone.

**Public Forum:** *The United States federal government should forgive all federal student loan debt.*

**“Thank you,” to those volunteering your time and energy** to this worthy cause – we are deeply appreciative of your support, and we hope we can count on you to volunteer again. Being a judge requires no previous experience. All we ask is for you to be **fair-minded in your decision making** and **provide objective and honest feedback**. It is the job of the debaters to convince you about their arguments and ideas, so please don’t feel as if you (the judge) need to do any prior research about debate or the topic. Young elementary students can also volunteer to be a judge! IMPORTANT: Please stay off the phone and give the debaters your undivided attention. Ty!

[For Judges] Here are the links to the ballots (please review them):

1. Public Forum Debate: [[Ballot](#)].
2. Crossfire Champions: [[Ballot](#)].

[For Judges] Here are some links to potentially useful training videos (& Orientation):

1. Basic Judging (3 min): [[Video](#)].
2. Public Forum Debate (4 min): [[PDF](#)] & [[Video](#)].
3. Judge’s Orientation (14 min): [[Video](#) (Same as Above)].



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## Guiding Principles of the Event:

**Three Burdens in Debate:** Proof, refutation, and rejoinder.

[https://debate.uvm.edu/dcpdf/Gary\\_Rybold\\_Speaking\\_Listening\\_Understnding\\_2006.pdf](https://debate.uvm.edu/dcpdf/Gary_Rybold_Speaking_Listening_Understnding_2006.pdf) (pp 12-14)

For a better understanding, please refer to Dr. Rybold's textbook. Here are my (Coach Bill) comments:

1. **Proof:** Students are expected to have researched their arguments and ideas. Please try not to be overly critical about how the student cites their sources. If a student is explaining ideas with how and why (using "because") and not just 'what' trains do, then that student should be credited with having met their proof burden.
2. **Rebuttal:** Students are expected to disagree with an argument made by their opponent. This should be well-organized, contain proof (as above), and be spoken with kindness and respect. ex. They said, we say, because, & therefore.
3. **Rejoinder:** At 21<sup>st</sup> Century Debate, we will add more formalized opportunities for rejoinders in the future. As for now, we ask that debaters seek to accomplish this through their questions and answers - particularly during the "grand crossfire".

**Three Modes of Persuasion (Aristotle):** Logos, Pathos, and Ethos.

<http://www.atlas101.ca/pm/concepts/logos-ethos-and-pathos/> (Rhetorical Appeals, Aristotle)

1. **Logos:** The speech is expected to last no more than 90 sec (2 min max). The student is providing an introduction, one argument, and a simple conclusion. Was the speech organized? Could you understand their explanations? Does the speech make sense? Please give positive encouragement about this.
2. **Pathos:** Students were asked to engage the listener by speaking in a convincing manner. Did the speaker look and sound like they were concerned about the topic? Did they have passion and/or enthusiasm in their speaking mannerisms?
3. **Ethos:** Students are expected to speak to you and not just read to you – there is a difference. Can you tell? Are they looking into the camera (or at least in its direction)? Did they speak with confidence (facial expressions, body posture, smooth gestures)? Did they use evidence from what sounded like a credible source? There are many things a speaker can do to gain credibility with you.

## Making the Judging Decisions:

1. **Speaker Rankings:** Each speaker is ranked relative to the others (1-4).
2. **Speaker Points:** Each speaker is given "speaker" points indicating how well they spoke and how well they debated. **(Please... no ties! ".5" = a tie breaker!).**
  - a. 29.5 to 30 = outstanding, nearly perfect!
  - b. 28.5 to 29 = excellent
  - c. 27.5 to 28 = above average
  - d. 26.0 to 27 = average (Please try not to give anyone a "below average" score.)
3. **Winning Team:** Which team did the better debating? Please don't choose a side because you personally agree with it. Trust yourself (no ties!). Also... please indicate who won the "Grand Crossfire" (This is needed for the "crossfire" event).  
**Please be kind, objective, and fair-minded!** 😊