



Parents and Guardians: Camp Environment, Goals, Risks

Dear Hoosier Debate Camp Attendee Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to have your child attend the Indiana University 2020 Online Hoosier Debate Camp! Months of preparation by our lab leaders have resulted in an incredible package that I know our attendees will enjoy. Below is a document that seeks to define our role as educators as well as some of the risks associated with an online debate camp. Please read and then sign below for confirmation of receipt of this document.

Role of our Educators:

Debate camp can be one of the most important springboards for attendees as they seek to build on their life-long journey through the artforms of debate, rhetoric, research, and argumentation. Our educators see themselves as collaborators and guides who will help our participants as they navigate this complex world. Each student will come to our labs from different starting points, with distinct skills and goals in mind. As such, our lab leaders are tasked with helping students extend their reach to the boundaries of thought and debate performativity. They will help our attendees build themselves as advocates; increasing their skills to see through and engage with perspectives of competing stakeholders. Lab leaders are educators that intend to improve our camp attendee skills and knowledge in the following categories:

- 1) Argumentation – students will learn to craft, deconstruct, and come to terms with arguments of various type and form.
- 2) Topic education – each debate event will have dedicated topics selected by the middle school and high school National Speech and Debate Association. Our lab leaders will help students see the limits and potential of each topic.
- 3) Information literacy – students will research, deconstruct and argue with/from/about evidence from diverse sources and types.
- 4) Speech and block writing – 90% of success in debate tends to rest with the preparation stages. From finely honed blocks, to well-crafted speeches that meets the needs of a given rhetorical situation, our students will learn how to show up to tournaments with round ready material.
- 5) Debate performance – While blocks of prepared arguments can be helpful, the student must deliver the argument. Building confidence, emotional intelligence, efficiency, mannerisms, verbal pauses, and more.
- 6) Audience adaption – Who are these judges and why do they vote the way that they do? We seek to provide the audience analysis and adaptive techniques that can help our attendees persuade the diverse judges/audience that they will come across.
- 7) Good person speaking well – With debate comes the question of how we should debate and for what reasons. We seek to include conversations about the ethics of what we do to improve self-reflectivity and understanding of the power and influence that this artform can bring to the table.

Content Warnings

Debate camps by their necessity will cover topics of contemporary controversies (political, moral, cultural or otherwise) that can include argumentation, subject-matters of debate related content and materials that may exceed what some would consider “typical” classroom-age-appropriate material. As our teaching philosophy suggests, our lab leaders will seek to be guides through the journey of debate but we will not mandate that certain content must be grappled with. Our lab leaders will evaluate the educational benefits of introducing talking points, readings and other materials with the needs of the camp attendees in their



pursuit of knowledge about the “core” of a controversy and resolution. The lab leaders will also seek to balance appropriate limitations on content that would be deemed unnecessary, harmful, or explicitly obscene while also recognizing that many of our attendees have signed up for camp to have boundaries and perspectives tested. Despite good intentions, students with distinct goals of research and topic engagement may want to focus on arguments from alternative perspectives that some within the debate lab may not agree with. Our role as educators is to provide quality guidance while also providing alternative research, readings, and materials that will meet the needs of our distinct students. **If an attendee would like to learn about a topic in a different manner, we ask that the students please request from the lab leaders alternative educational materials and perspectives.** We will do our best to accommodate. Furthermore, parents are encouraged to continue in their role as a guide to their children as they engage in these topics, arguments, subject-matter, research material, readings, and culturally relevant artifacts.

Computer Behavior

The Hoosier Debate Camp is doing everything we can to ensure the security and safety of our debate attendees. From centralizing educational material in Canvas to navigating Zoom in a way that avoids external “zoom bombs,” we have spent months making sure that during official HDC events, your children are in good hands. However, due to clear privacy concerns and our physical separation from your child’s working space, the HDC cannot monitor all computer activities of our campers. Debate as a research activity will require that your child searches online databases for relevant materials on the topics that we are researching. We ask that parents should recognize that the lab leaders at the Hoosier Debate Camp will not have direct supervisory oversight of how our camp attendees will use their technology at all times. While students participating in HDC events and activities are expected to stay focused on our curriculum and activities, we will not be able to confirm compliance of appropriate “offline” behavior. “Offline” behavior will still need to be monitored within the home by the customs and expectations of your household(s).

Finally, with any online activity there are risks. Hacking, server outages, blackouts from bad weather, and poor camp norm compliance by fellow campers, can all impact the quality of our camp experiences. We want to ensure you that within reason the Hoosier Debate Camp has sought to mitigate these risks and we will adapt to any barrier that comes our way. Feel free to reach out to us if there are issues through hoosierdebatecamp@gmail.com or by calling our office at 812-856-7585 during normal business hours. We believe that our camp will provide what we seek to delivery, but new situations can always bring new issues and we hope that you will feel comfortable communicating with us so we can adapt ASAP.



IU Debate Camp Online Etiquette and Rules

Dear Camp Attendee and Parents/Guardians,

At the IU Hoosier Debate Camp, we believe decorum is critically important to education whether it is in person or online. In order to maintain a healthy environment where fellow students and faculty members will feel safe and comfortable engaging in quality debates about controversial topics, we must follow a few guidelines. Failure to follow these guidelines could result in reduced quality of camp experience for our attendees and in some cases the removal of the student from the camp. Removal will be determined by the camp director and the staff.

- 1) **Respect:** Always treat your instructors, lab leaders, lab assistants, judges, and peers with respect and courtesy. Even though you are not meeting face-to-face, you are still dealing with other people.
- 2) **Educational Community:** We are a learning community, everyone is here to learn and thus each interaction should be geared towards improving that educational environment. Conduct determined detrimental to the learning environment will not be tolerated. This includes participating in or encouraging behavior akin to “zoom bombing.”
- 3) **Login and Camp Material Security:** Students are responsible for keeping their login information to canvas and zoom confidential. Links to zoom meetings and live-debates must remain confidential for the safety and security of all participants.
- 4) **Professionalism:** Communication with the staff should remain at a professional level. The staff are bound by the affirmative obligation to report any instances of abusive misconduct under the University Policies related to [programs involving children](#). Inappropriate infractions under this policy must be reported.
- 5) **Debate Norms:** Follow the rules of the debates to the best of your abilities. Evidence, time limits, and technology integration should meet the best standards of academic speech and debate communities.
- 6) **Language:** Do not use language with the intent of harming, hurting, or inciting others.
- 7) **Harassment:** Students should not engage in behavior that is considered harassment of any type in debate rounds, in lab settings, in canvas page communications, or in offline communication platforms. When engaging in official Hoosier Debate Camp events students should stay focus and engaged with the content, platforms, debate lab environment and community of the debate camp.
- 8) **Privacy:** Protect your privacy. Do not e-mail, text, social media-post, or canvas-post any information you do not want others to know.
- 9) **Proactive Engagement:** Don’t suffer in silence! If you need help or have questions about your course work, ask your lab leaders, lab assistants, lab colleagues or the director of the camp!
- 10) **Communicate Issues:** If you are experiencing technical difficulties, you can contact your lab leaders through the means they identify for their labs. Otherwise, the office email (Hoosierdebatecamp@gmail.com) or the office phone (812-856-7585) are available for additional assistance.
- 11) **Illegal Behavior:** Students should not engage in any behavior deemed illegal by the state of Indiana during official HDC meetings and events. This includes consuming alcohol or partaking in illegal drug usage.
- 12) **Gambling:** Gambling is prohibited at the Institute.



Online Hoosier Debate Camp Forms



The list is critical to ensure that all of our participants will have an environment where they can thrive. By signing the document below, you are confirming that you have read the document and you understand the rules and norms of the camp.