

ASD 2020-2021 Debate Track Plan

We'll focus on **Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate (LD)** this year with **Moot Court** as an add-on course. Registration for Moot Court will be announced later, and it will have a separate cost.

Coach Crystal Barnett is our coach for LD and Moot Court. She is an attorney for a local law firm and serves as Adjunct Faculty for Regent University School of Law, teaching Legal Research and Writing, Constitutional Law, and Business Entities. While in law school, Crystal competed in both Moot Court and as a member of the Trial Advocacy team.

Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate

Some recommend that students should start with Team Policy (TP), others Lincoln-Douglas (LD). Both have their reasons. Doing TP would allow students to have a friend to lean on. However, experienced debate students also say partnerships can bring in another unique set of circumstances that students may not be ready to deal with. Starting with LD would allow students to learn individuality and focus on researching skills first, a critical foundation for our students to build.

If enough students show interest in Team Policy, we will consider offering it virtually if a TP coach is available. However, we highly recommended that students choose only one, either LD or TP, to focus on this year. Each requires a lot of work. LD alone will have frequent assignments.

For LD, there are no materials required to purchase. Coach Crystal will teach from her own resources and provide access to them via Google Drive. She will expect her students to submit assignments and will go over it on the first day of her class on September 10. Students can bring in their laptops or tablets.

Moot Court

This year, we also added Moot Court. This class will start later in the fall when NCFCA releases the problem packet. We will announce the class schedule for Moot Court at that time.

Below is a brief intro on Moot Court by Coach Crystal.

Moot Court is a simulated oral argument, similar to an argument made before an appellate court." - NCFCA website. While many people think of the mock trial experience of arguing before a jury and cross-examining witnesses, Moot Court provides the opportunity to argue before a panel of justices, similar to the Supreme Court.

Students participating in Moot Court will be presented with a problem packet that will include a legal issue that the court has been tasked to resolve. Often, this issue has no clear answer. Students will need to perform research in order to create an argument both for and against the issue. Arguments will be based on legal concepts and case law.

Not only will students need to be prepared with their arguments and knowledge of the law, but during oral arguments, judges often interrupt to ask clarifying questions. Therefore, students need to become intimately familiar with their argument, learn to think on their feet, and remain calm and return to their argument in the face of judge interrogation!

Although NCFCA does not allow for students under the age of 15 to compete in Moot Court competitions, Coach Crystal will be happy to have students 13 and up sit in on sessions to absorb and discuss.