



NEWSLETTER

2023-2024
January: Issue #4

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the NJSDL and the New Jersey District
of the National Speech & Debate Association

Congratulations!!!

After receiving the National Federation of High School (NFHS) Outstanding Speech & Debate Educator Award in March, **NJSDL president and Randolph coach, Katherine Burke, has been selected by the NFHS Speech, Debate, and Theatre Committee to receive the Section One commendation representing Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, & Vermont.**



Ms. Burke was selected as the Paula Mittleman Educator of the Year Award by the NJSDL and therefore was submitted by ArtsEdNJ as the New Jersey Outstanding Speech & Debate Educator for national consideration. Ms. Burke will receive her award at this year's state championships!

Congratulations Ms. Burke!!!

Important Dates

- Sat. Jan. 6 - Hunterdon Central Reg. HS
- Sat. Jan 27 - Ridge HS
- Thu. Feb 1 - NSDA Hotel Block opens
- Sat. Feb 3 - Freehold Twp. HS
- Sat. Feb 24 - Montville Twp. HS
(NSDA Districts - Congress)
- Mon. Feb 26 - World Schools student application deadline.
- Sat. Mar 9 - Newark Tech - Essex County
(NSDA Districts - Big Questions)
- Sat. Mar 15 & 16 - NJSDL State Champs
- Sat. Mar 22 & 23 - NSDA Districts
(Speech & Debate).
- Thu. Apr 25 - Sat. Apr 27 -
NSDA Last Chance Qualifiers

Visit www.NJSDL.org for the complete 2023-2024 calendar.

New Study About the Benefits of Speech and Debate



The National Association for Urban Debate Leagues (NAUDL) recently published a paper entitled Interscholastic Policy Debate Promotes Critical Thinking and College-going: Evidence from Boston Public Schools.

[Access the full study](#)

New Jersey District News



Apply for a position on the New Jersey World's Schools Team!

Once again, we have available the World Schools Debate program format to qualify students for TWO teams to Nationals in June. Each team will consist of 3 – 5 students (5 being the preferred number) who will train, practice, and ultimately compete as a unit. Any students who are interested in participating in this event are not required to participate in another District Tournament (i.e., Congress, Speech, Debate, or Big Questions), but are strongly encouraged to consider these events. If students choose to, they may preference the World Team above the other qualifying events. Should any student (or an alternate) eventually qualify in another preferred main event, they can accept that main event, and an alternate will replace that contestant, should the World Teams drop below 4.

STRICT DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 25, 2024.
APPLICATION FORM - [NJSDDLIVE/WSD24](https://www.njsdl.org/wsd24)



Nominate Students for Leadership in the NSDA

The Student Leadership Council (SLC) provides feedback and recommendations throughout the year to ensure the NSDA is meeting students' needs. This is a unique way to influence the organization's future and an excellent addition to any student's resume. If you know a student passionate about improving speech and debate, please tell them about this program and nominate them! High school member students who will graduate in 2025, 2026, or 2027 are eligible for nomination.

Who, What, Where, When

Coaches may submit nominations by February 15 through a standard online form, which sends a copy to both the national office and the district chair, if applicable. Each district has the opportunity to nominate one member student for consideration. The final SLC will be selected in April.

Why

"The Student Leadership Council has provided the opportunity to learn about the inner workings of the NSDA, collaborate with peers, and develop solutions facing our community. Working with the people on the council has not only made us co-conspirators for mutual goals, but also made us a group of friends spanning across regions."

- Taite Kirkpatrick, Student Leadership Council Member

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/student-leadership-council/>

NJSDL Student News & Resources

2023-2024 NJSDL Student Advisory Board.

- Brendan Angilello - Randolph
- Sasha Caracalos - Princeton
- Abhijay Edavalapati - Bridgewater-Raritan
- Catarina Fernandes - Elizabeth
- Faye Fletcher - Ridge
- Carolyn He - Randolph
- Saketha Kedarsetty - Ridge
- Atharva Makode - Bridgewater-Raritan
- Alexis Sherlaw - Phillipsburg

STUDENTS

Write & Submit Legislation for NSDA Nationals!

Any high school or middle school NSDA member student, regardless of their national qualification status, may directly submit legislation to be considered for the 2024 National Tournament Docket!

Debate the topics you are passionate about—if you wrote it, you can submit it!

If your legislation is selected to be part of the Nationals Docket, you will be recognized in Rostrum, you'll receive an award after the tournament, and you'll be awarded a \$100 scholarship. This is a great way to boost your resume & be recognized for research & writing skills!

Submissions are due February 5, 2024.

Each student may submit up to 11 pieces of legislation — one per category. Please submit one document at a time. Formatting requirements are posted at the NSDA Legislation Submission Form.

Visit <https://www.speechanddebate.org/congress-submission/>

EVENT FEATURE

Interpretation Events

By Student Advisory Board Member,
Faye Fletcher - Ridge High School



There are so many to choose from- I recommend reaching out to an experienced team member for the logistics on which event might be best for you, OI, POI, DI, DUO, HI!

Once you have your event, the first step is to get your cutting together. This starts with a chunking-gather as much from your chosen piece (or pieces if OI and POI) and put it all into one document. Once finished, move on to the cutting. Trim any unnecessary words that do not explain your piece in how you would like it to, and put it at the bottom of the document in case needed later. Try to create a story, where the character or characters evolve within it, and should be around ten minutes length. I would recommend a piece of 1,000-1,200 words. Around seven or eight minutes, include a turning point for the character. This could mean that your protagonist finally realizes their true potential, or one where they are hurt to the point that they can't go back to the way their life was before the event. This is called the climax, and is the peak of the development of your character. Everything before the climax should lead up to it, and everything following the climax should result from it.

My biggest piece of advice when preparing this Interp event is asking how does it relate to you? Find a piece you love, and craft it with that passion!

Check out the new Welcome to Coaching Speech & Debate Video Series!

Are you a new coach? Then you'll love our new Welcome to Coaching Speech & Debate Video Series! Unlike our NSDA Coaching Course, which focuses solely on NSDA coaching, this series offers a concise, easy-to-understand introduction to our activity. Learn the ins and outs of coaching in our new Intro to NSDA Coaching course! This course covers many of the basics of NSDA membership and answers the following questions:

- What are NSDA merit points?
- What can I do to start the season well?
- How do I learn more about NSDA points, events, and rules?
- What is Nationals and how do students qualify?
- What are other forms of recognition through the NSDA?

Visit <https://www.speechanddebate.org/learn/courses/intro-to-nsda-coaching/>



New Jersey District Tournament Series

Congressional Debate

February 24th @ Montville High School

Big Questions

March 9th @ Newark Tech

Speech, LD, PF and CX

March 22nd and 23rd @ Delbarton



2024 NSDA NATIONALS

JUNE 16-21, 2024

DES MOINES, IOWA

Worlds Schools Debate

Student Application.

[NJSDL.LIVE/WSD24](https://www.njsdl.org/WSD24)

School Registration

2023-2024 Season

[Register online here](#) or complete the following form and mail with your registration fee to the address on the right.

Are you a High School (9-12) Middle School (5-8)

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone #: _____

School Moderator: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Principal/Head of School: _____

Email: _____

Additional Moderator/Coach: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: New Jersey Speech and Debate League

#337

203 Main Street

Flemington, NJ 08822

All schools, new and returning, should complete the following information and remit annual dues payment each year [note that many schools pre-pay their annual dues in conjunction with the previous year's state championship tournament registration fees]. In order to compete at league-managed tournaments such as the State Championships, all materials should be received by January 31, 2024 to be eligible. You may pay your dues by October 31, 2023 at the discounted rate of \$175. Dues are \$200 if paid between October 31 and January 31. League W-9 can be accessed at njsdl.live/w9form

[Membership to the National Speech & Debate Association is separate.](#) **You can join the NSDA by clicking here!**



New Jersey Speech and Debate League

#337

203 Main Street

Flemington, NJ 08822

a partner organization with



and



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

OFFICERS:

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David Richardson ([Newark School of Fashion and Design](#))

David Yastremski ([Ridge](#))

Alternates

Gary Yablon ([Hudson Arts and Sciences](#))

Saul Grullon ([North Star Academy](#))

Andrew Prescott ([Montville Township](#))

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE:

[David Yastremski](#) ([Ridge](#)) - Chair

[Katie Burke](#) ([Randolph](#))

[Adam Leonard](#) ([Hunterdon Central](#))

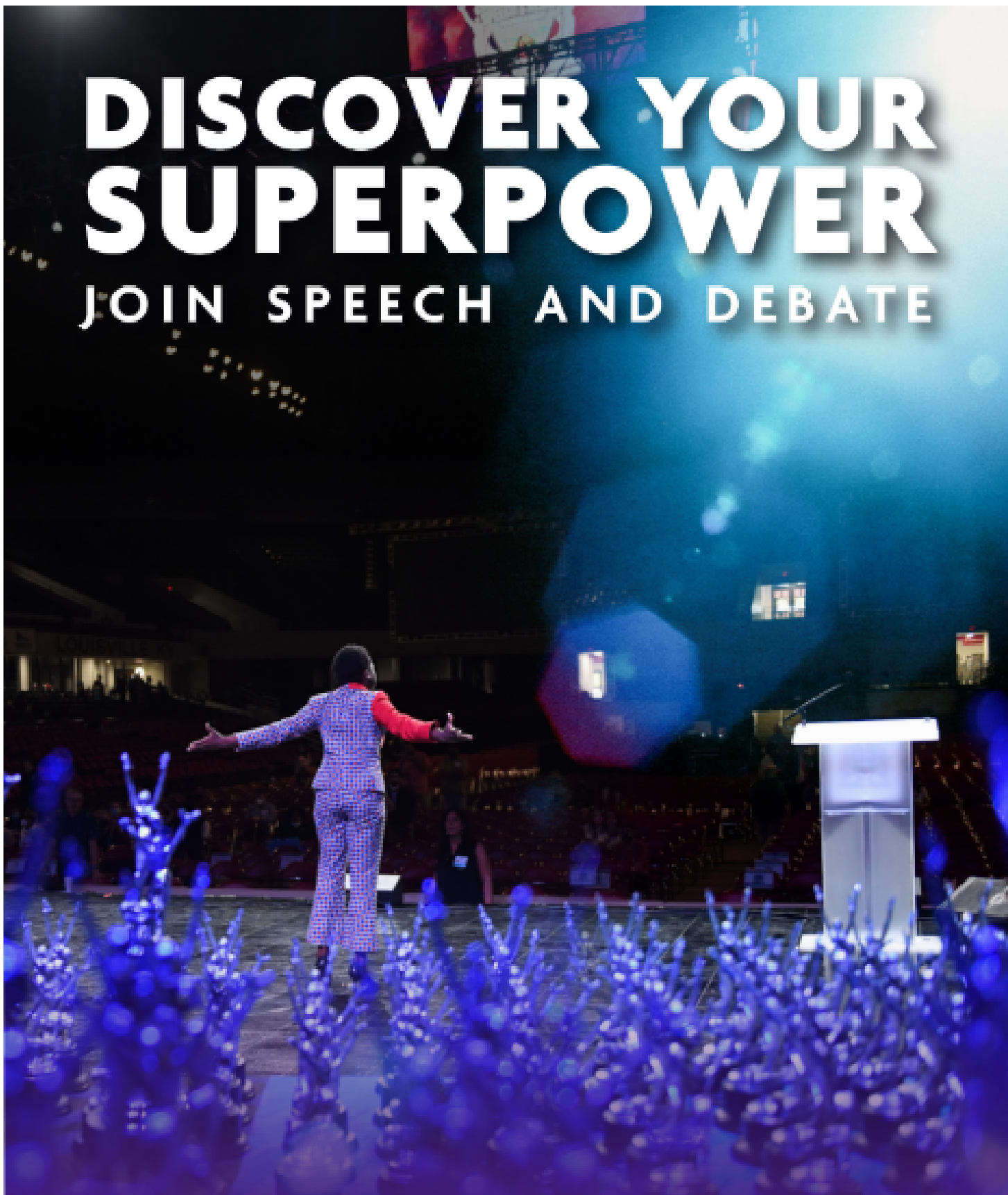
[Dennis Philbert](#) ([Newark Central](#))

[Anne Poyner](#) ([Summit](#))

[Laurie Schmid](#) ([Phillipsburg](#))

DISCOVER YOUR SUPERPOWER

JOIN SPEECH AND DEBATE



Be part of a team. Sharpen your superpower. Compete amongst the best. For 90 years, the National Speech & Debate Association has been helping students across the country unlock the power of their minds, find their voices, and discover their true capabilities. Learn more at www.speechanddebate.org