



Debaters

Association of Victoria

Handbook

Junior Secondary Program 2011

Junior Secondary Program Handbook

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Program Overview

The Junior Secondary Program is a training and course for students in Years 7 & 8 who are new to debating. The program offers:

- extensive training which provides a comprehensive and very practical introduction to debating (argument, structure, and presentation); and
- three rounds of practice debates, which will be adjudicated by experienced DAV adjudicators, who will provide constructive criticism and advice to the debaters

Who's Who

The Debaters Association of Victoria ('DAV') has the mission of 'facilitating effective debate in Victoria.' It was established in the 1920s, and has a long tradition of debating excellence.

The Schools Administrator (Michael Ciesielski) is employed to coordinate the day-to-day operations of the Schools Competition, and is first point of call for administrative matters.

The Executive Officer (Charisma Dungan) is responsible for the overall operations of the DAV, including all accounts and payments, as well as general queries about our competitions and services.

The Training and Development Administrator (Andrew Costa) is employed to coordinate the day-to-day operations of the Junior Secondary Program, and is the first point of call for administrative matters. He can also organise debating training for your staff or students.

The Vice-President (Adjudication & Training) (Monique Hardinge) is responsible for overall management of the program, and development of training materials. She handles all adjudication training issues and debating complaints.

Contact Details

Debaters Association of Victoria

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Office hours: 10AM – 5PM (Messages may be left outside this time)

Website

The website (www.dav.com.au) is the information centre of the DAV Schools Competition. It contains administrative information such as draws, topics, ladders and regional information, as well as news and resources for debaters.

The website will be updated regularly throughout the year, so please check it regularly for changes. You may need to reload the page on your computer to make sure you are viewing the latest information.

Program Format

The Junior Secondary Program is an introduction to debating for junior secondary students that provides training in the basic skills and structure of debating, and gives students an opportunity to do three 'friendly' debates. The JSP runs over four evenings through August, September and October.

The first night of the program is a Training Night. Students begin with a 45 minute session with a trainer from the DAV who will explain the basics of making and presenting a case, and responding to the other side. The debaters will then be broken into smaller groups for workshops involving debating exercises and a Q&A session about the basic skills of debating.

The remaining three nights of the JSP are debating nights, each of which includes a debate and a debriefing session, extended adjudication or exhibition debate performed by DAV adjudicators.

Training Night

The training night, before the rounds, will cover all the basic debating procedures including terminology, speaker roles, manner matter and method. Training is provided by accredited DAV adjudicators and trainers.

Style Australian Three-On-Three (two teams of three members, affirming/negating a topic)

Draw Draws are published on the DAV Schools website, in the following format:
Affirmative Team vs Negative Team

Draws also specify the topic to be debated and the date, time and location of the debate.

Eligibility

No debater who has debated in the Schools Competition is eligible to participate in the program.

Regions

Schools entering the program will be allocated to a region, according to the preferences you indicate on your registration form. A list of JSP regions and dates can be found at the end of this document.

We rely upon the generosity of our host schools, so please encourage your students to behave themselves and treat the occasion and the venue with the utmost respect.

Regional Coordinators are the DAV's representative at regional nights – they will organise adjudicators, and respond to any queries you may have. However, Regional Coordinators do not have authority to make decisions about complaints, and will refer these to the DAV office.

Host School Coordinators are the host school's representative on the night, and are responsible for allocating debating and preparation rooms on the night. We are enormously grateful for their efforts in helping regional nights run smoothly!

Rounds

There are three rounds in the Junior Secondary Program, following an initial training night. Please ensure that your school's teams can attend all scheduled debates, and that they prepare a case for every debate.

Times

The times for debates will be indicated on the draw. Students will have either a 6pm or 7pm start time.

Topics

There topics for the 2011 program are:

Debate 1. That we should have harsher punishment for school bullies

Debate 2. That everyone should become vegetarian

Debate 3. That parks are more important than car parks

Resource Guide

The Resource Guide provides a brief for particular topics, to facilitate student research and preparation for debates. Resource Guides will be distributed to students during the program and are also available on the DAV website.

Chair

Affirmative teams should, where possible, provide a chairperson, who should perform these tasks:

Beginning:

- 1) Welcome audience and participants;
- 2) State the topic of the debate;
- 3) Advise speaking times (eg 3-4) & one-knock for warning, two-knocks at end; and
- 4) Introduce the teams.

For each speaker:

- 1) At the adjudicator's nod, introduce the next speaker;
- 2) Time each speech (and at the end of the speech, tell the adjudicator the speech's length);
- 3) Follow the timing pattern and announce by knocking once in warning, and twice at the end.

🔗 Look at the DAV Schools Website for a Chairperson's Instruction Sheet,

Adjudicators

The DAV trains its adjudicators rigorously. All adjudicators are accredited according to the Australian Debating Federation (ADF) Rules. Adjudicators are ranked from Beginner through to Senior Trainer, and A Grade debates are adjudicated by Senior Trainers wherever possible.

Adjudicators are frequently university students, teachers or young professionals who have themselves participated in DAV competitions, so they have plenty of advice and experience to share with students.

The adjudicator's role is to:

- decide the winner of the debate;
- explain their reasons for the result; and
- provide constructive advice and criticism to debaters.

Participants are asked to show respect for their adjudicators, and a Code of Conduct complaint may be made if this request is not observed. We ask that you accept an adjudicator's decision in good faith and the spirit of fair play, even if you disagree with it. Debates are frequently evenly-matched, and there may be valid reasons on either side to prefer one team to win.

However, if you are seriously and reasonably aggrieved by an adjudication, you can lodge a written complaint (see Conduct & Complaints).

Adjudications

Each team will receive a copy of the official score sheet, with a mark per speaker out of 100.

In a 'perfect' 100 score, 40 marks each go to Manner and Matter, and 20 to Method.

However, the deemed average is 75, and it's very rare to get higher than 80 or below 70.

Winning margins:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1 – 4 points | A very close debate, with only minor differences separating the two teams |
| 5 – 9 points | A relatively clear decision with one team having an obvious advantage |
| 10+ points | A very clear win, with the losing team probably having failed in one or more fundamental aspects of its argument or presentation |

Best Speaker

The adjudicator has the discretion to name a Best Speaker, who will be the debater with the highest score. If several speakers each scored the same highest score, the adjudicator may give the award to one speaker, all speakers or none.

Administrative Details

Forfeits

If your team does not debate on the night, or does not debate according to the rules, it will be deemed to have forfeited the debate.

Even if you provide notice, a non-debate will constitute a forfeit.

Forfeiting will be treated severely in this year's program, because of the enormous injustice a forfeit does to students on opposing teams: students who work hard to prepare a case and who treat the debate seriously.

The easiest way to avoid a forfeit is to ensure that all five (or more) team members are involved in preparation for debates, and attend regional nights.

Forfeit policy (also for Schools Competition)

The DAV revised its forfeit policy in 2006. The new policy was devised after many complaints from schools about the excessive and disruptive forfeits and has been approved by the Schools Advisory Board. The forfeit policy is as follows:

Notification

Schools who forfeit must inform the DAV, the opposing team and the host school. A 'Forfeit Notification' form is available on the DAV website; forfeiting schools must send this form to all three parties. The fax must be sent to all parties by 5:00 pm the day before the debate to be eligible for a 'forfeit with notice'. If the fax is sent to all parties by 3:00 pm on the day of the debate they will be eligible for a 'same-day forfeit' instead of a 'no-notice forfeit'.

Fines

Forfeit type	Notice given <i>to all parties</i>	Fine
Forfeit with notice	Before 5:00pm the day prior to the debate	\$20
Same-day forfeit	Before 3:00pm the day of the debate	\$40
Forfeit without notice	After 3:00pm the day of the debate OR no notice given OR all parties not informed	\$60

Forfeiting schools must inform the opposing school, the host school, and the DAV office, otherwise a forfeit will be considered 'without notice'.

A forfeit will be deemed to have taken place when:

- a team has not arrived at the debate room 20 minutes after the scheduled starting time;
- the team is present but not ready to debate within 20 minutes after the scheduled starting time;

As soon as you realise your team cannot debate, you must complete a "Forfeit Notification" form and send it to the DAV office, the opponent school and the host school. Please do not forget to notify the opponent and host school!

The Vice-President (Schools) has discretion to waive forfeit fees. To apply for a waiver, please send reasons in writing why the team was unable to debate.

Training Services

The DAV offers a comprehensive range of debating services, including:

- adjudication of debates, including intra-school and external competitions;
- student coaching and training in debating and related skills;
- teacher and adjudicator training;
- debating information, handbooks and resources; and
- competition management.

If you wish to take advantage of the services we offer, please contact the Schools Administrator (or speak to someone in the DAV Office).

Resources and Publications

Your first stop for debating information should be the DAV Schools website at www.dav.com.au/schools.

The DAV has released a training DVD “Guide to Debating” which has been designed by experienced DAV trainers to give your students the best opportunity at succeeding in debating competitions. The Guide includes different levels of training, demonstration debates, and teacher resources on a separate CD-ROM. Copies can be ordered from the DAV office for \$95.

The debating ‘bible’ is the Australia-Asia Debating Guide. Copies are available from the DAV office for \$17.50 (incl GST). It is written in a generally-accessible style and is recommended for anyone wanting to better understand the mechanics of debating and adjudication. More information about the AADG and downloadable chapters are available online at our website.

The Resource Guide, published by the DAV, gives some pointers as to the subject area covered by a particular topic. However, students should not confine their research solely to the resources listed (and adjudicators will not have read the material, so students should not treat the Resource Guide as though it were a study design for an exam).