

2014-2015 MPA SPEECH AND DEBATE BULLETIN

In partnership with the Maine Forensic Association

Updated 10-17-14

The Maine Principals' Association and the Maine Forensic Association (MFA) have entered into a partnership, renewable annually, to promote debate and speech activities in Maine schools. The Maine Forensic Association will administer speech and debate activities in the state of Maine in accordance with the by-laws of the MFA and under the governance of the Maine Principals' Association.

2014-2015 Maine Forensic Association Events

October 18	Erskine Academy, Novice Speech Lincoln Academy, Congress and Novice Debate
October 25	Bangor High School, All Events
November 8	Falmouth High School, All Events
November 15	Maranacook Community High School, All Events
November 22	Deering High School, Debate
December 6	Poland Regional High School, All Events
December 13	Brunswick High School, All Events
January 10	Cape Elizabeth High School, All Events
January 17	Skowhegan Area High School, Speech York High School, Debate
January 24	MFA State Tournament, Lewiston High School, All Events
January 31	NCFL Qualifying Tournament at Poland Regional High School, NCFL Events
February 7	Maine District Tournament at Brunswick High School NSDA Events

MAINE FORENSIC ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

<u>President:</u>	Joe Pelletier, Bangor High School
<u>President Elect:</u>	
<u>Vice-President:</u>	Jason Curry, Greely High School
<u>Secretary:</u>	D'Arcy Robinson, Poland Regional High School
• <u>Treasurer:</u>	Kris Deveau, Brunswick High School
<u>Liaison to MPA:</u>	Jason Curry, Greely High School

DEBATE

Debate is the art of argumentation. The Maine Forensic Association sponsors two forms of debate:

- **Lincoln-Douglas** is a debate in which individual debaters defend values rather than policies. Every two months, a new value- oriented topic is presented to the student (e.g.: "Lying with the intent to protect is justified." "Competition is superior to cooperation as a means of achieving excellence." "The brotherhood of man is stronger than the sovereignty of nations.").
- **Public Forum** is an event in which teams of two debate a new topic each month. It differs from policy debate in that sides (Affirmative and Negative) and order (speaking first or second) are chosen at the start of the debate by a coin toss, as in sporting events. A "Crossfire" period allows questions from all four debaters at once, and the "Last Shot" period is a chance for each debater to present the one argument he/she thinks will win the debate. The entire debate lasts 33 minutes.

SPEECH

Speech is the art of oral communication. Maine leagues compete in 11 categories of speech:

- **Humorous Interpretation:** Student interprets a humorous piece of literature (5-10 minutes).
- **Dramatic Interpretation:** Student interprets a dramatic piece of literature (5-10 minutes).
- **Original Oratory:** Student presents his or her own work on a theme with supportive evidence (5-10 minutes).
- **Prose Reading:** Student reads a piece of literature (5-10 minutes).
- **Poetry Reading:** Student reads a piece of poetry (5-10 minutes).
- **Story Telling:** Student presents a story from an oral tradition (5-10 minutes).
- **Ensemble:** Students combine to present a piece of a literary work or play (5-15 minutes).
- **Duo:** Two students combine to present a piece of a literary work or play (5-10 minutes).
- **Domestic/Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking:** Student speaks on a given current events/foreign affairs current events topic (5-7 minutes).
- **Original Works:** Students create and present their own play, story, etc. (5-10 minutes).
- **Oratorical Declamation:** Student presents a published speech that its author delivered as a public address (5-10).

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Student Congress is an activity that has students writing legislation, running an active session of congress, learning parliamentary procedures, and developing arguments for and against proposed bills. Students take responsibility for all aspects of this event with some guidance from adult parliamentarians. The event is held in conjunction with speech and debate meets throughout the season.

For more information, visit the Maine Forensic Association Student Congress website at <http://www.mainforensic.com>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Maine Forensic Association's debate and speech tournaments are held on Saturdays. Students compete four to six times during a tournament.

Why Encourage Speech and Debate Programs in Maine Schools?

- To promote the increasing relevance of oral communication for students.
- To teach cross-over skills such as research and teamwork.
- To offer fine arts credits and various curricular options for student participants.
- To engage students who may shine in activities that involve oral communication.

What Statewide Programs Are Available to Schools?

Speech, Debate, and Student Congress Meets are sponsored by the Maine Principals' Association and the Maine Forensic Association

Maine High Schools May Send as Many or As Few Students As Show Interest.

How Can My School Get Started in Promoting Speech and Debate Programs?

Attend one of the MFA events personally.

Send teachers and students to a state event as a part of an oral communication unit.
Arrange to see a video tape of a state speech/debate event.
Offer a speech class. Incorporate debate across the curriculum.
Join another school to field a speech and debate club.
Start emphasizing the value of oral communication at the middle level.

To obtain a starter kit contact d'Arcy Robinson at Poland Regional High School.

MFA Moderators

Speech: Maura Smith, Skowhegan High School

Debate:

- Lincoln-Douglas: Matt Leland, Lincoln Academy
- Public Forum: Lisa Melanson, Cape Elizabeth High School

Student Congress:

- Paul Bibeau, Kennebunk High School

MFA Website

Website: www.maine forensic.org