



# DEBATE OVERVIEW

Arise Club Debate Events

# TEAM POLICY DEBATE EVENT

Policy debate consists of two debaters on each team, essentially a 2-on-2 scrimmage. The students have prepared materials and timed speeches to deliver, and the judge assesses the debaters and renders a balloted decision.

The resolution addresses a **political topic** of some sort that the league sets forth for everyone competing in the event. To prepare for tournaments, **debaters write affirmative** cases (arguing for the resolution) **as well as** prepare **negative briefs** (getting ready to argue against cases).



# LINCOLN DOUGLAS VALUE DEBATE EVENT

- Lincoln Douglas Debate format (LD) is based on a series of famous, historical debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.
- LD debates philosophical, value-based topics

## Lincoln-Douglas Debates



- Historic debate between presidential candidates
- Lincoln stressed central issue – spread of slavery, wanted to stop it
  - Felt African Americans were entitled to “natural rights”
- Douglas criticized Lincoln and felt the nation could not be half and half

# STOA 2019-2020 LD TOPIC

## 2020 Resolved: Culture ought to value assimilation over multiculturalism

E Pluribus Unum, the motto of the United States, means “out of many, one.” But one what? Is America a melting pot, where people from all corners of the earth become the American culture?

Or, is America one big salad bowl, where each culture adds unique flavor? Never in our history has this question of identity been more important. This resolution will allow debaters to understand and appreciate values gained from various cultures within the American fabric. Students will also understand the importance of a unified American culture. Diversity and multiculturalism will be values explored for their worth. So too will patriotism and unity.

This resolution should be less about the sins of racism and ethnocentrism, than about who we are as a people and what it means to be a nation.

