

Fourth National Debate Development Conference, June 4-6, 2021 Tentative Working Group and Presentation List

Workgroups Areas Summary

- Assessment and Research: promotion for directors/program-wide and data collection
- Audience / marketing policy debate
- Format
- Governance
- Institutional Relations
- Program Development
- Student Instruction
- Technology & Participation
- Debate Topics

Expanded Workgroup Areas

- Program and Promotion Assessment and data collection
- Audience—“marketing” policy debate
- Director Skills Development (how-to course for directors)
 - Alumni cultivation
 - Assistant coach training / acculturation
 - Budget management
 - Crisis communication
 - Program advocacy (internal)
 - Public relations and social media management
 - Recruiting
 - Team culture
- Format
 - Competition’s role in debate
 - Judging
 - MPJ / judge selection
 - Professional development / training
 - Written feedback
 - Rate of delivery
 - Role of coaches in argument production
 - Space for “shorter round” models (6-2-4, etc.)
- Governance
 - Calendars
 - Consolidation / staffing
 - Divisions (Open/D1, D2, etc.)
 - Documentation of program decline
 - Incentivizing “non-elite” competition—regional tournaments, low-engagement competition options

- Organization schemes (regions v. conferences / leagues)
- Student-led program-specific issues
- Institutional Relations
- Program Development
 - Advocacy materials
 - Program-in-a-box
- Student Instruction
 - Novice curriculum & retention
 - JV curriculum & retention
 - Debate skills in broader social and political contexts
- Technology & Participation
 - Best practices
 - In-round practices / conduct
 - Platforms
 - Technology (and access)
 - Participation
 - Tech-enabled competition formats
 - Tech-enabled league formats
 - Recruiting online-only start-up programs
 - Incorporating classroom debaters
- Debate Topics
 - Content
 - Rotation issues
 - Type (including breaking the “states cp” stranglehold on domestic topics)
 - Timeline
 - Vetting / selection process

Whole-Conference Panel / Presentation Ideas

- Alumni cultivation
- Crisis-as-opportunity—how bad is it, what can we do
- Crisis communication
- Institutionalization within your college / university
- Online 2020/21—lessons learned
- Program advocacy (internal)