



MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER



2024-2025 DEBATE RESOLUTION IS RELEASED!

We are excited to announce that the National Speech and Debate Association has announced the policy debate topic for the 2024-2025 school year. The topic is:

Resolved: The United States federal government should significantly strengthen its protection of domestic intellectual property rights in copyrights, patents, and/or trademarks.

Begin your research! Our 2024 Summer Debate Institute will offer an in-depth topic analysis, strategies on winning both the Aff and Neg, and prepare you for the upcoming season!



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PRESS RELEASE

12 APRIL 2024

MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE HONORS FEDERAL JUDGE BETH BLOOM AND CD3 INITIATIVE

Miami, FL - April 12, 2024 - The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League (MDUDL) is delighted to share the tremendous success of its recent collaboration with Federal Judge Beth Bloom and her team through the Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions (CD3) initiative. The event took place on April 5, 2024, and was an unparalleled experience for participating students from South Miami Senior High School and Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School.

Judge Beth Bloom and her team brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the program, creating an environment where students were not just educated but deeply engaged in civil discourse and critical thinking. The CD3 initiative marked a significant milestone as the first-ever program of its kind, leaving a lasting impact on all participants.

Stephanie, a representative from the South Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, expressed her gratitude, saying, "Thanks so much to everyone for participating in our first-ever (but surely not our last) Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions program with the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League! The students were so engaged, and eager to learn, advocate, and participate in civil discourse. It was truly inspiring."

The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting key takeaways such as learning to work together, gaining a deeper understanding of the legal system, and feeling inspired to pursue careers in law. The CD3 initiative also included jury deliberations segments that were highly praised for fostering respectful discussions among students.

The MDUDL extends its sincere appreciation to Judge Beth Bloom, her team, and the South Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association for their invaluable contributions to this program. Their dedication to educating and inspiring youth has made a significant difference in shaping future leaders in the legal profession.

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Pictured:
Jeannie Paguaga

THANK YOU CD3

Jeannie Paguaga is a fourth year Policy Debater and President of the Cobra Debate Team at South Miami Senior High School.

As a policy debater, I have researched many prevalent issues within our society in such great depth that I would not have learned about otherwise. Policy Debate has given me this gift of knowledge that allows me to be conscious of the problems occurring around the world, but it also opened a door for me. A door that leads to my future aspirations, one that I hope will be in law.

The CD3 Initiative was an opportunity that truly solidified my interest in this field, as I observed my peers take on the next step into bringing their goals into a reality.

My experience in the CD3 Initiative was remarkable, as I was able to meet experts from different professions in the Law field. I found it very easy to communicate with them about any questions or concerns pertaining to our mock trial activity. This activity was highly engaging, and it made us all consider certain points of view we had not noticed. Taking into account these small yet significant details that can sell your case was something essential to accomplish. However, I also learned that it is a skill and I truly admire the passionate strive of Law professionals to get to the facts of the case. Learning about the stories of each of these professionals was particularly eye-opening on how although we all come from such diverse narratives, we are all bonded through the love for writing, debating, and the law.



I truly believe that the CD3 Initiative is one of the most interactive ways to educate yourself on whether you should pursue law. For me it certainly was. I find the purpose of the initiative to be extremely insightful. Nowadays I think that we may all take part in the initiative benefits in the sense that civil discourse and discussions are something the world needs at times. We should not resort to screaming matches and petty remarks, rather, we should form our opinions on factual evidence and logical arguments. Sometimes when we get too caught up in our emotions, we may overlook important details. It's not to say that it's wrong to be passionate about certain topics, however, the intensity of passion does not equate to the biased intolerance of others' opinions. Being civil is what makes our arguments commendable and heard.

Respecting each other's speaking time and questions was demonstrated by everyone who participated in the mock trial. The mere task of having to present a sound argument to an honorable judge such as Beth Bloom, again reiterates that having a dynamic learning experience such as the one offered by the CD3 initiative may inspire debaters to strive for their future in law. In my experience, I found that every single debater that I had the opportunity to meet already possessed the skills of civil discourse, but it was brought to another level because of the initiative. I believe that the future of our generation is bright, and the best testimony for that is the fierce and clever debaters of the MDUDL.





Pictured:
Issabela Martinez

NATIONALS RECAP

Issabela Martinez is a Senior at Miami Senior High School and their current Debate Captain. She has competed twice in NAUDL Nationals, and will be attending LSU in the fall.

Participating in the Urban National Debate League Tournament was an enriching experience that exceeded my expectations in many ways. Despite not making it through qualifiers, every moment was a new growing and learning experience. The tournament provided a platform where I could engage in discussions, challenge my perspectives, and refine my argumentative skills with this year's topic.

Interacting with peers from diverse backgrounds and different parts of the country exposed me to a plethora of ideas and perspectives, expanding my understanding of various techniques in debate.

The support and community among participants created a supportive environment where we could learn from each other's victories and setbacks. While me and my teammate did not win, the journey itself and the opportunity to go to Chicago was very rewarding, leaving me with cherished memories with my teammates and a renewed passion for debate.





Pictured:
Alessandro De Palma

NATIONALS RECAP

Alessandro is currently a Freshmen at Miami Senior High School and is Co-Captain for their Debate Team. He is a driven, talented, and passionate debater who practiced Public Forum in his former middle school, and will continue to add to our league!

I'm so grateful for the moments I and my teammates could experience on the national level at Evanston. Debating against the nation is a privilege and one of the best learning experiences I have ever been given. After all, there are so many stories to tell from a trip 4 hours away from Miami on plane.

When we got to Evanston and saw the city, it was mesmerizing. The weather was a little chilly, but the city looked amazing to the point where every debater will be amazed simply by seeing the city. Once you saw downtown Chicago, you would never want to leave.

The hours of studying and learning this year's topic were a journey in itself. Simply by reviewing your arguments the night before, tensions were high. As one friend described it, debate had become a tense waiting game, in which every team waited to see what would happen in their first round.

Up to this point, I've never seen any debaters from out of Miami, so when we sat down for our first debate against Kansas City, tensions were high. However, when we started our speeches, there was no stopping momentum. Meeting new cities each round, such as Portland and Tulsa debaters, you learned new strategies and met new friends along the way.

Whether in competitive nature, or to enjoy the sport we all love, the nationals were an experience.



TENTATIVE 2024-2025 SY CALENDAR

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Tournament	Date
Summer Debate Institute	July 30–August 1, 2024
Tournament 1	September 14, 2024
Tournament 2	October 19, 2024
Tournament 3	November 16, 2024
Tournament 4	December 14, 2024
Tournament 5	January 25, 2025
Tournament 6: Nationals Qualifiers	February 22, 2025
CD3	TBA
High School Nationals	TBA
Middle School Nationals	TBA

Locations TBA



Announcements

2024 Summer Debate Institute

Location:
The University of Miami

Dates:
July 30-August 1, 2024

Time:
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

- Offerings:
 - Middle School Workshops
 - High School Workshops
 - Coaches Professional Development Sessions
 - Breakfast and Lunch

NAUDL 2024 Annual Dinner

Honoring Stuart H. Singer,
Immediate Past Chair -
NAUDL Board of Directors

Location:
Four Seasons Hotel
1435 Brickell Ave, Miami, FL

Time:
6:00 PM

Contact
madalyn.messerbrooks@
urbandebate.org for tickets.

