

# The Basics of a Debate Meeting

*Austin TLI December 5, 2009*

Paul Kaschube DTM

Immediate Past Division J

Governor

Austin Discussion & Debate Club

[paulkaschube@att.net](mailto:paulkaschube@att.net)

# The Appeal of Debate

- Who likes to watch a good debate?
- Who debated in high school or college?
- Who always wanted to debate?
- Debate clubs in District 55
- Debate clubs in Toastmasters International

# Debate Clubs in District 55

- Austin Discussion & Debate (AD&D)
- <http://austin.freetoasthost.ws>
  
- San Antonio Discussion & Debate (SADD)
- <http://sadd.freetoasthost.ws>

# Debate Clubs in Toastmasters

- Manhattan Chowder & Debate Club (defunct)
- Minnesota
- Agile Articulators - Speech and Debate
- Bahrain Debate Club
- Club 500 - Debate
- Toronto Debate Club
- Healthy Discussions

# Toastmasters supports Debate

- Leadership
- Debate Manual
- Debate Meetings

# What is Debate?

A debate is a speaking event in which two sides used reasoned discourse to argue about a particular subject.

The immediate goal of each team is to convince a panel of judges and an audience that its arguments on the subject are better than those of opposition.

The emphasis is on logic, but each team may use appeals that carry emotional weight.

In debate, the merits, demerits, advantages and disadvantages of each side are weighed.

*The heart & soul of debate is Clash!*

# Toastmasters & Debate Go Together

- Prepared Speeches & Research
- Listening & Evaluation
- Impromptu Speaking & Rebuttal
- Questions & Answers
- Facts & Logic
- Critical Thinking & Fallacies
- Articulating Values, Beliefs & Positions
- Making Proposals & Addressing Opposition
- Inspiration & Persuasion
- Entertainment, Fun & Humor

# Debate Essentials

- Resolution
- Two Teams: Affirmative & Negative
- Constructive & Rebuttal Speeches
- Questions & Answers
- Affirmative starts, Teams alternate, Affirmative concludes
- Moderator
- Judges

# Debate Formats

- Parliamentary
- Lincoln Douglas
- Team Policy
- National Debate Tournament
- Cross-Examination Debate Association
- Variations

# Formal Debates District 55

## *Parliamentary*

- The random searching of passengers at airports is to be continued to ensure the safety of air travel.
- The monitoring of telephone calls to outside the United States without court warrant is to be continued.
- Presidential Elections should be by paper ballot.

# Formal Debates District 55

## *Lincoln-Douglas*

- Judicial Review whereby acts of Congress are ruled unconstitutional needs to be restrained.
- The ban on offshore drilling shall be lifted.
- Minimum wage laws should be repealed.
- The cap and trade legislation to curb greenhouse gas emissions is a job killer.

# Formal Debates in District 55

## *Modified Team Debates*

- The Armadillo shall be the District 55 Mascot.
- Government approved vaccines are safe and effective in fighting diseases and illnesses.

# *Have a Debate Meeting!*

- Eager participants
- Multiple Roles
- Attract & Engage the Audience
- Educational, Informative & Entertaining
- Lots of Help
- Lots of Resources
- *Let's debate that!*