



# HARVARD Debate Council

Harvard Debate Council / YPO Workshop  
Mumbai, India  
April 17, 2025  
2:00pm-8:00pm

## Workshop Overview

During this session students will learn about strategies for successful debating and have the opportunity to debate with their peers about an announced topic. During the first part of the workshop, Dr. Rebrovick will lead two discussions with the entire group. For the remainder of the workshop, students will be broken into small groups based on age and experience. In those groups they will prepare for and participate in a short debate round. In order for students to maximize time at the workshop, we will distribute reading materials about the topic one-two weeks before the workshop begins.

## Workshop Agenda

2:00p-2:15p Workshop Introductions  
2:15p-3:10p Lecture - Strategies for Successful Debating  
3:15p-4:10p Lecture - Topic Analysis & Discussion  
4:10p-5:00p Split into Groups - Students prepare speeches  
5:00p-5:15p Break  
5:15p-6:00p Small Groups - Practice Speeches  
6:00p-7:45p Small Groups - Debates  
7:45p-8:00p Awards & Closing Ceremony

## Workshop Instructors

**Dr. Tripp Rebrovick** has been the Coach of Debate at Harvard College and Director of the Harvard Debate Council since 2017. He received an A.B. from Harvard College in 2009 and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 2016. He has been teaching and coaching debate for over twenty years and has worked with students of all skill levels. As a debater, in 2005 he won a high school national championship and was the top-ranked individual speaker in the country. He was the first debater for Harvard to reach

the elimination rounds at the National Debate Tournament all four years of competition. As a coach, his students have twice won the Rex Copeland Award, given to the college team with the best overall regular season record, and they have been the champions at nearly every major college tournament.

**Jazmine Pickens** is Assistant Director of the Harvard Debate Council. She has more than 13 years of experience in debate both as a competitor and as a coach to students ranging in experience from middle school to college. She attended the University of Oklahoma and graduated in 2019, where she won a national championship, and has worked with Harvard ever since. She became Assistant Director in 2023. She looks forward to working with students this summer to help grow their interest and love in debate while also developing their skills.

**Ed Williams**, Assistant Debate Coach at Harvard College and at the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, brings over three decades of coaching experience at the highest level. Ed's impact extends to the national stage, where he has coached champions at major tournaments such as Greenhill, St. Marks, The Glenbrooks, Barkley Forum, and the Harvard Round Robin. His achievements also include coaching the Top Speaker at the 1993 NSDA National Tournament and securing the Runner-up position in 1994. Additionally, Ed coached the 2000 Tournament of Champions Runner-up at Woodward Academy. Ed's dedication to the global debate community is evident through his role as a judge at the WSD World Championships in Thailand and Mexico City and judging the finals of World School Debate at NSDA. Recognized for his outstanding contributions, Ed is a proud member of the Georgia Forensics Coaches Hall of Fame and the Barkley Forum Key Society. His accolades include numerous outstanding coach awards and recognitions, solidifying his status as a respected figure in the world of debate.

**Rishi Mukherjee** is Assistant Debate Coach at Harvard College. He competed in policy debate at Lexington High School, and debated for the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in college. In High School Rishi qualified to the Tournament of Champions (TOC) and finished among the top 32 teams in the country. In college, Rishi was ranked a top 10 debater in 2023 and was the 4th seed at CEDA Nationals in college policy debate. Since graduating Rishi has worked as a debate coach and teacher at Harvard and as a private debate coach. Rishi has coached high school debate for 5 years, and his students have reached the finals of Yale in Public Forum. Rishi has also coached Harvard debaters to great success. Rishi is known for his energy and enthusiasm for debate and for his ability to motivate students to want to become better debaters.