

The Crescent City Debate League

The Crescent City Debate League works with a group of Tulane & Xavier students, along with a dedicated group of teachers, principal, and volunteers, featuring Ryan McBride, J.R. Stevens, Gregory Tacconi-Moore, Taylor Stevens, and Courtney Cantrell; dedicated teachers, and driven middle school students.

The local community, Tulane University, & Xavier collaborate to host four separate tournaments each year. These tournaments feature our teams in multiple debate rounds. Each tournament generally consists of four rounds: debaters research two topics in advance and two impromptu topics. Research topics are chosen in a manner that challenges our students with subjects to which they can relate, but are slightly outside the realm of typical middle school education and experience. The impromptu topics allow students to challenge themselves by capitalizing on the skills our coaches and teachers have taught them. Each round, students separate into teams of three and debate against teams from other schools. Volunteers, coaches, teachers, parents, and Tulane students judge each round; who we have trained utilizing the guidelines of Middle School Public Debate Program (MSPDP)¹. CCDL has also had the opportunity to expand the last citywide tournament into a regional tournament in conjunction with MSPDP.

Every sixth-to-eighth-grader in the New Orleans area is invited to participate in our tournaments. The program encourages students to engage with challenging topics, ranging from the purpose of the Electoral College to the nature of international treaties. Students will develop skills such as researching, note taking, extemporaneous speaking, teamwork, and sportsmanship. These are essential life skills the students will utilize to excel academically and professionally. The League also holds regular workshops to train teachers from around the city to implement and develop debate programs in schools. When The Crescent City Debate League started, only three schools competed regularly. Now, there are 16 teams across the Greater New Orleans area that attend each tournament.

This League could not thrive without the contribution of each individual.

If you are interested in learning more about The Crescent City Debate League or volunteering with the program please contact us at

Email: noladebate@gmail.com

Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/CrescentCityDebateLeague/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Website: <http://rhetoric.wp.tulane.edu/>

Twitter: NOLADebate

¹ <http://www.middleschooldebate.com/>