



# ISDS Debate Fundamentals Summer Programme

May, 2026

# The ISDS Summer Camp is a six day long workshop for students to learn about debating



## Objectives

- To expose students to a culture of debate in their early years
- To prepare young students to pursue structured debating as a serious extra curricular activity
- To improve communication skills, critical and dynamic thinking, and teamwork
- To increase student interest in and engagement with current affairs and general knowledge



## Target audience

- Students from grades 8-10 across India who are interested and passionate about learning about debating and have had very limited or no exposure to debating competitions in the World Schools Debating Championship (WSDC) or parliamentary format



## Tools

- A tailored curriculum combining games and lectures
- Live debates that participants can practice their skills in and receive feedback on
- Content sessions that build a foundation over different knowledge areas and themes

# Spread across six days, our curriculum guides students to learn structured debating and apply it to real-world contexts (1/6)

Day 1: Introduction to debating	Contents
<b>WSDC Basics and Introduction to the summer camp</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Introduction to the World School Debating Format</li><li>● Understanding speaker and team roles</li><li>● Understanding the WSDC Format flow</li></ul>
<b>Motion Types and Definitions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Interpreting a motion to be debated</li><li>● Defining key terms in a given motion</li><li>● Setting up debates the right way</li></ul>
<b>Models and Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Understanding what constitutes a model or policy and its importance</li><li>● Step by step approach of building a model</li><li>● How to deliver a model or policy</li></ul>
<b>Content Session: "Development Economics"</b>	<p>Students will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What economic growth means and how nations achieve it</li><li>● The decisions governments take when allocating resources</li><li>● How welfare systems work</li></ul>

# Spread across six days, our curriculum guides students to learn structured debating and apply it to real-world contexts (2/6)

Day 2: Argument Construction	Contents
<b>Argumentation Basics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding the purpose of an argument</li><li>• Understanding the different types of an argument</li><li>• Understanding the different parts of an argument</li></ul>
<b>Generating claims</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding stakeholder analysis</li><li>• The right approach to formulating your claims</li><li>• Approaching cohesive case-building</li></ul>
<b>Analyzing arguments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning techniques to build analysis for an argument</li><li>• Analyzing arguments comparatively</li><li>• The steps to build a complete arguments</li></ul>
<b>Content Session: "Education Systems"</b>	<p>Students will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How elite institutions are structured and funded</li><li>• The strengths and limitations of state-run education</li><li>• Brain drain: what it is, why it happens, and how it affects a country</li></ul>

## Spread across six days, our curriculum guides students to learn structured debating and apply it to real-world contexts (3/6)

Day 3: Impacting and illustrations	Contents
<b>Planning strategic arguments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding the purpose and structure of preparation time</li><li>• Developing an efficient one-hour prep time strategy</li><li>• Thinking of tradeoffs and exclusivity to choose the right arguments</li></ul>
<b>Impacting arguments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How to build an impact chain: linking your argument to what matters</li><li>• Using illustrations to make your arguments stylistic and memorable</li></ul>
<b>Exercise: 1P Speech</b>	Students will build and deliver a first proposition speech with complete, robust arguments and receive personalized feedback
<b>Content Session: "Social justice movements"</b>	Students will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview and origins of major social movements</li><li>• The objectives of each movement and what they have achieved</li><li>• How movements create change</li></ul>

# Spread across six days, our curriculum guides students to learn structured debating and apply it to real-world contexts (4/6)

## Day 4: Introduction to principles

## Contents

### Exercise: "Time to Climb"

Students will be put through a fun, competitive quiz activity to reinforce their learnings

### What is a principle

- Understanding the role of principled argumentation in competitive debate
- Understanding common principles and why they matter
- Knowing when and how to deploy principles effectively in a round

### Making principled arguments

- Identifying where principles are violated
- Using analogies to demonstrate principles
- How to prove the importance of principles vs practical benefits

### Content Session: "The State and Its Duties"

Students will learn:

- The social contract: what citizens and governments owe each other
- What constitutes state failure and how it is recognised
- How states attempt to address failure

## Spread across six days, our curriculum guides students to learn structured debating and apply it to real-world contexts (5/6)

Day 5: Rebuttals	Contents
<b>How to use rebuttals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding the concept and role of rebuttal in a debate</li><li>• Distinguishing between strategic and unstrategic rebuttal</li><li>• Learning and applying different rebuttal techniques</li></ul>
<b>Points of Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding the purpose and types of Points of Information</li><li>• Learning the rules of asking and answering Points of Information</li><li>• Constructing strategic Points of Information</li></ul>
<b>Exercise: Rebuttal Drills</b>	Students will be put through a series of fun and engaging drills to practice formulating effective rebuttal. Students will be exposed to a vast array of motions to help solidify concepts and practice the theory.
<b>Content Session: "International Relations"</b>	Students will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How international alliances are formed</li><li>• Current major conflicts and how different nations are implicated and responding</li><li>• How trade partnerships have shifted over the last decade</li></ul>

## Spread across six days, our curriculum guides students to learn structured debating and apply it to real-world contexts (6/6)

Day 6: WSDC Debates	Contents
<b>Exercise: Analysis Drills</b>	Students will be put through a series of fun and engaging drills to practice building strong analysis. Students will be exposed to a vast array of motions to help solidify concepts and practice the theory.
<b>Exercise: WSDC Style Debate</b>	Students will have a WSDC style debate and receive personalized feedback
<b>Exercise: Current Affairs Quiz</b>	Students will attempt a brief general knowledge and current affairs quiz to test to apply their learnings

**Website:**

[www.indianschoolsdebatingsociety.com](http://www.indianschoolsdebatingsociety.com)

**Instagram/Twitter:**

@TeamIndiaWSDC

**Facebook:**

ISDS: Indian Schools Debating Society

**Email:**

[isds@indianschoolsdebatingsociety.com](mailto:isds@indianschoolsdebatingsociety.com)  
[ragini@indianschoolsdebatingsociety.com](mailto:ragini@indianschoolsdebatingsociety.com)