



Teammates at the Coon Rapids Tourney: Front: Rashmi Raveendran, Isabel Medrano, Eli Conrod-Wovcha. Back: Sammy Ries, Ethan Asis, Asher Sobotka, Henry Vlietstra, Brennan Keogh, Jack Guinan, Zach Dyar, Richard Chang, Reuben Vizelman, Liam Will, Sameer Bijwadia, Michael Moran

Did You Know?

– Dir. of Debate Tom Fones was a lawyer before he was a history teacher and debate coach.

– Junior Kieran Singh qualified for nationals in both Public Forum and Congressional. This is the first time it's happened.

– Three debate teams qualified for Nationals, which took place in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida June 18-22. The pairs were:

- 1) juniors Olivia McCauley - Kieran Singh
- 2) seniors Adnan Askari - Ben Konstan
- 3) sophomores Sameer Bijwadia - Liam Will

Nationals cap the season

BY JENNY RIES, STAFF WRITER

Twelve SPA students attended Debate National Qualifiers on Dec. 9 in hopes of qualifying for debate Nationals where the country's best debaters compete, and three teams met this incredible goal.

The students debated in Public Forum or Lincoln-Douglas.

"In both formats, you argue both sides of the debate. The Lincoln Douglas format is based entirely off of philosophical frameworks, such as deontology. The public forum only has one framework, utilitarianism, providing a cost-benefit analysis. In public forum, whoever can prove that they do the most good for the most people wins the debate. In Lincoln Douglas, you have to prove that your side is morally right under your framework, and prove that your framework is the most moral, to begin with," junior Olivia McCauley said.

Lincoln-Douglas was named for a series of debates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas had in 1858 when they ran against each other to represent Illinois in the Senate. The object of Public Forum is to convince an unbiased, possibly uninformed party, called the "citizen judge" that one's side of the debate is more logical than the other.

"The main difference is that in PF, there are two teams of two people, while in LD there is only one person on each side. Additionally, PF tends to cover 'hot topic' issues in a way that is meant to be accessible for many people, while LD covers more philosophical issues and is slightly more technical; the judges in LD usually have extensive experience in the activity, while judges in PF can be anyone from parents to debate coaches," senior Adnan Askari Said.

Four SPA students participated in the Lincoln-Douglas at National Qualifiers: Jack Guinan, Asher Sobotka, Gabriel Konar-Steenberg, and Sammy Ries. Eight students debated in Public Forum: Sameer Bijwadia with Liam Will, Olivia McCauley with Kieran Singh, Kaia Larsen with Riley Will, and Adnan Askari with Ben Konstan.

We are informed Team debates timely topics



"Debate has been great for my self confidence."
— junior Kaia Larsen



"It's a lot of hard work but it is also very rewarding."
— junior Ethan Asis



"Debate has helped me learn to research both sides of a topic and to choose better sources."
— junior Kieran Singh



"It allowed me to show my competitive side while maintaining a respectful tone."
— junior Reuben Vizelman



Senior Adnan Askari presents his speech during a debate tournament while his partner, senior Ben Konstan, researches for the rebuttal.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS: Tom Fones

Test Yourself!

1. True or False? In Public Form the team gives 4 speeches and there are 3 cross fires.

2. In this form of debating you stand up when you would like to speak and you must be called on by a judge.

- A. Public Form
- B. Lincoln Douglas
- C. Congress

3. True or False? In Public Form you come with a pre-scripted rebuttal.

4. True or False? Mr. Fones starred in a film when he was younger.

5. In this form of debate, you are alone with no partner.
- A. Public Form
- B. Lincoln Douglas
- C. Congress

6. True or False? SPA qualified three teams for Debate Nationals: one sophomore team, one junior team, and one senior team.