**Getting Ready for Camp**

We are about 2 weeks away from the start of our camp, and there are several things you can do to get ready .

**NOTE: Don’t be discouraged if you don’t understand everything you read in ANY of these materials. We will be working on them in the camp. YOU will get better at understanding!! These materials are simply a way of getting you started on our journey. Your parents can probably also help you.**

1. **Read the introduction to LD debate from the National Forensic League’s free online primer.** Pages 1-13 will do. Read more if you would like. It is here: <http://debate.uvm.edu/dcpdf/LDIntroduction_to_LD_Debate_(NFL).pdf> or you can use the attached copy.

1. **If you need to do some work on critical reading , read these files:**

simple rules for critical reading.docx

article for critical reading practice.rtf

check your critical reading.rtf

1. **Read the background materials on the first week’s topic .** (See the attached files)

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| **File** | **Comments** |
| LDIntroduction\_to\_LD\_Debate\_(NFL).pdf | This is the free online introductory text on LD from the NFL. The first reading assignment is in this document |
| economic inequality intro - start here.docx | Read this file first, it lays out some of the basic information you will need. |
| economic inequality - read this second - Obama Has Misdiagnosed America.docx | This one is a relatively simple introduction to the negative point of view on this topic |
| Over view of recent books articles on inequality.docx | Read this after you have read the first affirmative (pro) introduction file. I don’t expect you to understand the entire article, **just concentrate on the first few pages** and skim the rest if you need to. |
| economic inequality is not a real problem - deeper neg analysis.pdf | Read this after you have read the basic introduction. I don’t expect you to understand the entire article, **just concentrate on the first few pages** and skim the rest if you need to. |
| 2012 nats ac.doc | What it says. This is a modified case used by Todd Liipert in winning nationals in 2008. |
| nats 2012 neg.doc | What it says. This is a modified case used by Todd Liipert in winning nationals in 2008. |
| 2012 nats ac 2.doc | What it says. This is a modified alternative aff case created by Todd Liipert in winning nationals in 2008. |

1. Thereafter read at least one article on the topic each day for the entire duration of the topic. That is one of the first things I will stress to you – you never stop learning and preparing on a topic until it is over. You need not, in most cases WILL NOT BE CUTTING CARDS (creating evidence cards) on these articles. If you are a beginner or simply want a refresher course on how you read articles for maximum effect, see the attached documents on how you read critically.

The purpose of this regime is to increase your ability to project “perceptual dominance” in your rounds. Local LD debate is often closer to Presidential debates than to Policy debate from which it was developed . In that kind of debate, if you look like you are winning , you are winning. By “look like” I mean in the way you carry yourself, in how you seem to be in command of the topic no matter what question your opponent throws at you. More on this in camp.

This practice also helps to keep the creative fires going throughout a topic . New cases, new blocks, new answers , new questions for CX – great debaters never stop , they are never out-researched.

1. **We start debating on Day 2 of the camp in the afternoon.** We will have practice rounds every afternoon after that. That means **intermediate and advanced debaters should write/polish cases on the first resolution.** You are welcome to use all or part of the camp cases , but you really need to start creating your own arguments, etc. Your target audience is local tournament judges.

We call them flay judges here at SJ. They take some notes, but they don’t always follow convoluted case positions full of words from the final rounds of stump the philosophers. They want to be persuaded by not only your logic but your words , your clarity and your passion. Your cases should be written with those principles in mind.

A good test of how clear your case is would be to give yourself 3 minutes to explain it to one of your parents or to a sibling or friend. Then ask them to tell you if they understand or not. Allow them to ask you questions about yor position. If you can’t answer their questions, you should do some research , google the information you need.

**Beginners, you should read and re-read the camp cases provided for you, after you have read the initial background materials.** You should practice delivering these cases with clarity, and intelligence. You should read these cases to your parents, friend or sibling and let them quiz you about them. If you can’t answer their questions, you should do some research , google the information you need.

**Here are five questions you should ask and be able to answer in single sentences about your cases;**

Who is the hero of your case?

Who is the villain?

Who is/are the victims?

What is the problem ?

What is the common sense solution?

**More when the camp starts.**