



# **What is Debate?**



# Intro

- This is a PowerPoint derived from the DebateDrills Academy course “Debate.”
- To see more (including a video), check it out [here](#).



# Debate

- An activity that involves disagreement about an issue or controversy.
- Key Elements:
  - Adversarial
  - Public Speaking
  - Research

# Debate Events

- Policy
- Lincoln-Douglas
- Public Forum
- Worlds
- Congress
- Speech (not debate)





# Policy

- Teams of two, with an annual topic.
- Very research-focused and “fast.”
  - Debaters speak quickly to get more information in



## Lincoln-Douglas

- One-on-one debate, with a bi-monthly topic.
- It can be either “traditional” or “circuit,” with circuit being more like policy.
- Very research-focused, but also some philosophy.



## Public Forum

- Teams of two, with a monthly topic.
- PF is the least research-intensive - it emphasizes presentation more.
- PF is slower, about appealing to a regular audience.



# Worlds

- One of the most traditional debate styles.
- Very short notice for a given topic.
- The emphasis is less on research in advance and more on presentation/persuasion.



# Congress

- Also much slower and more traditional.
- Debates take place over legislation that is proposed.
- This event is supposed to emulate debates in Congress.





# Speech

- Speech is distinct from debate.
  - Memorized speeches.
  - Not adversarial or about answering arguments from opponent.



## **Conclusion**

- It's important to understand the different type of events - each one has different aspects and skills it rewards.
- This is key for deciding what event to participate in.

**Thank you for watching!**