

Walt Whitman Speech and Debate Club

Newsletter

September 19, 2022



Important Dates

September 20 7-9 pm- Clubs Night; Whitman

September 21 7-8 pm- Returning parents meeting; Whitman new building

October 3, 7-8 pm - New Parents Meeting; Whitman new building

National Tournaments

Sept 24-26: Valley (Online)

Sept 30- Oct 2: Yale (in-person)

Oct 14-16: Bronx (in-person)

Welcome back!

Kanisha Weerakoon, Board of Directors President

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Speech and Debate season! It was wonderful to see our returning members at the first practice two weeks ago. All students were highly enthusiastic to see each other and get back to in-person debate.

A few of our Public Forum teams have already attended the Season Opener at the University of Kentucky. Students are now busy working with our wonderful coaching staff preparing for tournaments this fall. After a few long years, WACFLs and most national tournaments will be returning back to in-person. This is going to be a busy year for our members! The team will be traveling together, competing in-person, and meeting other teams, all of which have been some of the most enjoyable parts of Speech and Debate in the past. I am very excited to work with the parent board to maximize these experiences for our students. (continued on next page)

PF Team travels to UK

The weekend of Sept 9-12 four PF teams and a driver/ chaperone/ judge attended the UK tournament season opener.

Congratulations to Diya Bhattacharjee and Sara Willhauk for making it to Semifinals!

Congratulations to Mitra Hu-Henderson and William Hallward-Driemier, for making it to Octafinals!

MEET THE SPEECH AND DEBATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student President

William Hallward-Driemier, Public Forum

My name is William Hallward-Driemeier and I am in 12th grade. This is my 4th year on the team and I am very excited to play a larger teaching and leading role this year. During my time as a Whitman debater, I have competed on both the national and local circuits. Outside of debate I am part of the Black & White, am a Boy Scout and am part of Whitman's QuizBowl team.



Vice President

Juliana Ludwig, Lincoln Douglas

I've been debating in LD since Freshman year, and I've enjoyed getting to teach the novices and see their debate skills improve. I'm so grateful for the friends I've been able to make during practice and at tournaments in the last four years. Outside of debate, I love singing in choir, doing tech for the Whitman shows, and hiking.



President of the Board's welcome letter (cont'd from first page):

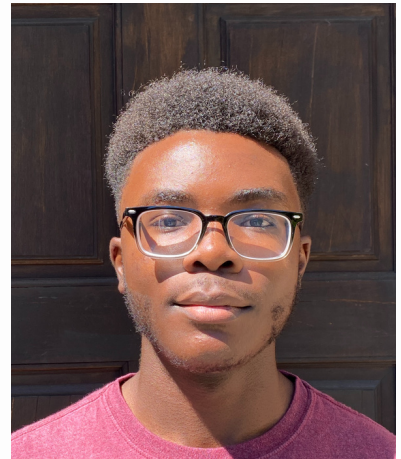
We look forward to welcoming new members during Clubs Night this Tuesday (September 20th). Also, we will be holding a meeting for new parents October 3rd. As always, I would like to encourage parents to take an active role and help organize tournaments, volunteer to judge, help with chaperoning teams, etc., so that we can keep the Walt Whitman Speech and Debate Club thriving for our students.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

Meet the student captains

David Akinyoyenu
Public Forum Captain

Hi, my name is David Akinyoyenu, and I'm excited to serve as one of your Public Forum captains. I began debating in 6th grade and haven't stopped since. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to attend numerous local and national tournaments. Outside debate, I love playing squash, chess, and listening to music.



Diya Bhattacharjee
Public Forum Captain

Hi, I'm Diya! I am a junior and serve as one of the Public Forum captains. I have debated for two years and have amassed 3 gold bids to the Tournament of Champions. Notably, I championed Villiger, semi-finaled at UK, and was among the top 5 speakers at Georgetown. Outside of debate, I enjoy playing squash and trying new foods. Looking forward to a great year!



Mitra Hu-Henderson
Public Forum Captain

Hi, I'm Mitra! This is my third year competing in the Public Forum division, second in national competitions. I have accumulated 3 gold bids and 2 silver bids to the TOC. Outside of debate, I love going on walks, listening to music, hanging out with friends, shopping, and traveling!



Karthik Kumar
Speech Captain

Hi! My name is Karthik Kumar. I am co-captain of the Speech Team. I have been doing speech since my sophomore year and I am now a senior. I moved to Maryland from Illinois last summer. Outside of speech I am on the robotics team and I adore watching TV shows of all kinds.

Not pictured: Sara Willhauck- Public Forum Captain



Clara Baisinger- Rosen

Speech Captain

Hi, I'm Clara, and I'm one of the captains of Whitman's Speech team! I have been doing speech for the entirety of my high school experience, competing in Declamation, Dramatic Interpretation, Informative Speaking, and Original Oratory. I have qualified for NSDA Nationals two years in a row, even though I have been limited by an online setting. I am incredibly dedicated to speech and I love working with my teammates and coaches every week, for both the community and the win. Outside of speech, I am an assistant director for Whitman Drama's play and musical, as well as a rock climber, tutor, and Editor-in-Chief of the Eidolon, Whitman's literary journal. I'm looking forward to a great year, and can't wait to get to know all the new faces in forensics!



Jasper Lester

Congress Captain

Hi! My name is Jasper Lester and this is my third year with Whitman Speech and Debate. I have spent all three years on the Congress team and I am the Captain of the Congress team this year. Outside of debate I enjoy writing for The Black & White, biking, and spending time with my friends. I am looking forward to an amazing year!



Shreekanya Mitra

Lincoln Douglass Captain

My name is Shreekanya Mitra, I am a senior and the captain of Lincoln Douglass (LD) debate. I did three years of parliamentary debate in middle school and this is my fourth year of doing LD. Additionally, I coach the Pyle Middle School Advanced Debate Team. Outside of debate, I enjoy dancing, playing clarinet, cooking, and drawing.

