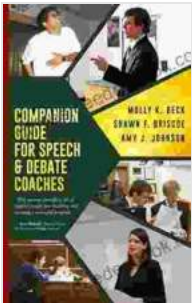


# The Ultimate Companion Guide for Speech Debate Coaches



## Companion Guide for Speech & Debate Coaches

by BK Wells

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Speech debate is an invaluable educational activity that fosters critical thinking, public speaking skills, and confidence in students. As a speech debate coach, you play a pivotal role in shaping the future of your students by guiding them through the challenges and rewards of this transformative experience.

This comprehensive guide is your essential companion, providing you with a wealth of knowledge, strategies, and resources to empower your students to excel in speech debate competitions and beyond.

### Understanding the Fundamentals

To effectively coach your students, it's essential to have a deep understanding of the fundamentals of speech debate.

## Types of Speech Debate

There are various types of speech debate formats, each with its own unique set of rules and scoring criteria. Familiarize yourself with the following formats commonly encountered in speech debate competitions:

- **Lincoln-Douglas Debate:** A one-on-one debate where students argue opposing viewpoints on a specific resolution.
- **Public Forum Debate:** A team-based debate where students present and defend a resolution.
- **Extemporaneous Speaking:** A prepared speech on a topic drawn at random, delivered with limited preparation time.
- **Impromptu Speaking:** A speech delivered without any preparation on a topic given on the spot.

## Elements of a Speech Debate

A successful speech debate requires careful attention to the following elements:

- **Claim:** The central argument or thesis statement of the speech.
- **Evidence:** Facts, statistics, and examples used to support the claim.
- **Warrant:** The reasoning or logic connecting the evidence to the claim.
- **Rebuttal:** Addressing and countering opposing arguments.

## Developing Student Skills

Coaching speech debate is not merely about teaching students how to win competitions; it's about nurturing their critical thinking, communication, and

leadership abilities.

## **Critical Thinking**

Train your students to think critically by:

- Encouraging them to analyze and evaluate different perspectives.
- Teaching them how to identify logical fallacies and biases.
- Guiding them in developing well-reasoned and evidence-based arguments.

## **Public Speaking**

Help your students become confident and effective public speakers by:

- Providing opportunities for them to practice their speeches in front of an audience.
- Teaching them techniques for controlling their nerves and maintaining eye contact.
- Emphasizing the importance of vocal variety, body language, and stage presence.

## **Leadership**

Foster leadership qualities in your students by:

- Encouraging them to take on leadership roles within the debate team.
- Providing them with opportunities to mentor younger students.

- Instilling in them the values of collaboration, teamwork, and respect for others.

## **Preparing for Competitions**

Competition is an integral part of speech debate. Here's how to prepare your students for success:

### **Case Development**

Guide your students in researching their topics thoroughly and constructing well-organized cases that present a clear and compelling argument.

### **Practice and Feedback**

Provide ample opportunities for your students to practice their speeches and receive constructive feedback from you and their peers.

### **Competition Strategy**

Discuss competition strategies with your students, including how to handle rebuttal, time management, and stage presence.

### **Resources and Support**

Supplement your coaching with these valuable resources:

#### **Online Resources**

- The National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA): <https://www.speechanddebate.org/>
- The National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL): <https://www.ncfl.org/>
- The SpeechWire Network: <https://speechwire.org/>

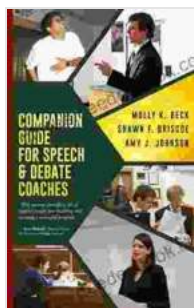
## Books and Training

- "The Art of Argument" by Anthony Weston
- "Public Speaking for College Students" by James C. McCroskey
- Speech Debate Institute Summer Workshop

Guiding students through the world of speech debate is a rewarding and impactful endeavor. As a speech debate coach, you have the opportunity to empower your students to become confident public speakers, critical thinkers, and future leaders.

Embrace the strategies and resources outlined in this guide to foster a transformative speech debate experience for your students. Remember, the journey is as important as the destination, and along the way, your students will develop skills and qualities that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Happy coaching!



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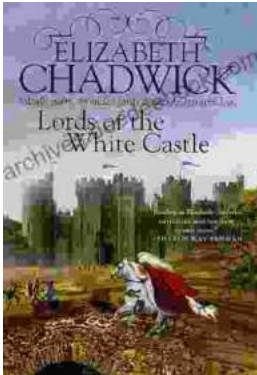
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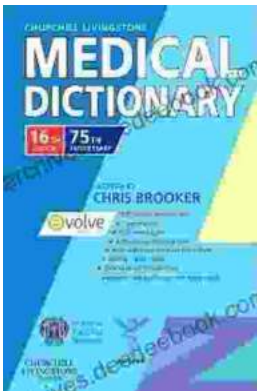
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