

1 DEBATE IS SECONDARY

It's a weird place to start but think first and foremost about the college, program(s) of interest, and general feelings about the school before considering how debate fits in.



2 USE DEBATE TO APPLY

Use debate experience strategically in your application materials. Both debate experience and competitive achievements are huge assets when applying to schools and you should be willing to use them.

3 REACH OUT

Make early contact with debate programs proactively to learn more. It's a great opportunity to build relationships with coaches and ask any questions you have. Coaches are also a great resource for the schools they work at and can recommend others to talk with.



APPLYING TO COLLEGE AS A DEBATER

Applying to college can be a daunting experience especially when you factor in trying to navigate the process as a high school debater.

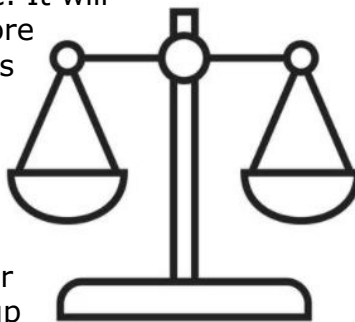
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4 YOU ARE GOOD ENOUGH

It's important to find a school that will be supportive of your debate goals and growth as a debater but there is no success metric that is required to reach out to college programs to find out more. You don't need to be the best debater from your year, region, or even team in order to debate in college.

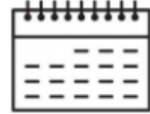
5 CAST A WIDE NET

You should consider lots of schools and debate teams in your college process if possible. It will help you learn more about your options and how teams vary. You don't need to APPLY to all the schools you contact. It's normal to consider schools and end up deciding not to apply.



6 APPLY EARLY

Applying early can maximize your chances of receiving financial awards – both from debate and generally.



7 ASK ABOUT MONEY

You should absolutely feel comfortable asking a program what debate-specific scholarships are available. It's a normal and expected question by coaches and directors.



8 BE CLEAR

Seek clarity about the type of financial award and terms of the award from teams. There's a tremendous amount of variation by school and team how debate-specific awards are given.

9 COMPARE

You should consider what you're looking for from college debate and choose points of comparison across programs. It's a totally individualized decision.