

LDEP's Coaching Ideals

The members of the Lincoln-Douglas Education Project believe that Lincoln-Douglas debate is primarily an educational activity to prepare students for academic and personal success in their future lives. In light of this, the LDEP encourages all LD debate coaches to actively promote the educational value of the activity by:

1. Prioritizing long-term educational goals over short-term competitive rewards.
2. Encouraging students to research and prepare their own cases.
3. Teaching students to conduct ethical research and citation.
4. Supporting tournaments that implement educationally constructive policies.
5. Mentoring judges to evaluate rounds objectively on the basis of argumentation and persuasive delivery.
6. Hiring and promoting the use of judges who demonstrate a commitment to fostering the educational value of LD.
7. Researching summer workshops and supporting only those with a strong educational mission and a substantial presence of adult educators.
8. Generally reflecting on the educational rationale for their coaching practices.
9. Exemplifying and reinforcing norms of tournament decorum and communal respect.