

Research Camp 2020

An unusual debate production, by IsaiahMcPeak.com & Laurie Dawson.



You probably already know that debate is more caught than taught, which is why Coaches Isaiah and Laurie believe in 20% instruction and 80% drill. That includes research too! This is not your typical debate camp! There are multiple hours for you to work at a computer and *apply* what's being taught. That's reflected in the price.

Seize the opportunity of remote work to master the one thing that's hard to pull off at in-person debate camps: research skills. It's a challenging topic since most volunteer coaches have never made a debate brief. And there's **a STUNT to prove the method:** Isaiah is refusing to learn what any of the debate topics even are before camp. All he knows is that one topic is about economics, and that's literally it. No wording, no nothing.

Part 1: Research Camp – 3 Days, \$300 (\$50 off for earlybirds)

This is the main enchilada. The format is: Isaiah lays research foundation like you've never seen it before, then launches students on assignments. Independent students work on their own. Club students work with their club. We've made Discord (it's like Slack) channels available for anyone who wants. For example, Mars Hill debate will divide into several small groups of 4-6 plus a parent to go through assignments.

Other club coaches: you are encouraged to use Discord and Isaiah's assignments to apply what's taught, but are even more encouraged to make this camp your own—make it work for you. If you want to apply the assignments differently, know your students and believe it needs to work another way, or so on, there's no grading here... and you can return to the videos any time throughout the year when you feel your students are ready for more.

Part 2: Debate Skill – 2 Days, \$200 (\$50 off for earlybirds)

This is Laurie's instruction *as coach of her own club*, with some appearances by other coaches (including Isaiah). Coaches may recommend all 5 days, or follow suit with their own preferred coaching and call it quits after the research portion. We want you, of course!

Thursday and Friday include guest speakers in breakout sessions addressing the STOA and NCFCA LD & TP resolutions, work on refutation, delivery, strategy, spar debates and so on.

Laurie and Isaiah tend to do things a little differently, though: we believe that full rounds in early season aren't that valuable, since *your skill cap as a student is limited by the quality of materials you've got so far*. We've found that coaching a student when their data is still sketchy simply isn't coaching the student at their real skill level, so we save that for several weeks (in Isaiah's case, for several months usually), instead focusing on the *building block* skills that make up great debating. If you're interested in that, sign right up!

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Proposed Schedule (subject to some change)

Day 1: Monday August 10

<i>Opening Keynote: The Power of Persuasion: the moral responsibility of changing someone's mind</i>	Dr. Michael Farris	10am CT
<i>Welcome</i>	Coach Laurie	11am
<i>Visioncast your success: here's what a NATIONAL CLASS case looks like in the end!</i>	Coach Isaiah	11:30am
Lunch Break	Zoomroom open Discord Social Rooms Open	12:30pm
<i>Researching with Discernment: A Cure for Our Times</i>	Coach Laurie	1:30 pm
<i>Research Foundations: Get to the Bottom of a New Topic</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Research like an intel analyst for decisionmakers</i> ● <i>Wide net, synthesis, conclusions, recommendations</i> ● <i>Create your mindmap</i> ● <i>Set up your browser for intense research</i> ● <i>Create AFF, NEG, GEN files and headings</i> ● <i>TOPIC REVEAL to Isaiah, who doesn't know what any of the topics are yet (so he can prove these methods are legit)</i> ● <i>Start a better keyword glossary</i> ● <i>Start a contextual definitions file</i> ● <i>Find the schools of thought</i> ● <i>Using conference talks to backtrack</i> ● <i>Start listing major THEMES, PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS</i> ● <i>Identify the START of a school of thought</i> ● <i>Track its progression, stave off rabbit trails</i> 	Coach Isaiah	2:30pm
Self/YourCoachLed Breakouts with Optional Assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify <i>all</i> schools of thought ● Build out your mindmap for at least 3 schools of thought ● Save compelling research you find on the way 	With your club Solo if you're solo	4:30-

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Day 2: Tuesday, August 11

Keep doing your assignment or whatever your coaches have for you	With your club Solo if you're solo	morning
<i>Research Plan for a Year and why <u>a debater right of passage is making their own case</u></i>	Coach Isaiah	12pm
<i>Research Foundations 2: Evaluating Research</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Primary/Secondary/Tertiary sources</i> • <i>Using Journals / Lexis / SSRN</i> • <i>Research Fallacies and Arguments</i> • <i>Choosing a school of thought for each side</i> • <i>Don't violate your moral compass on the topic</i> 		12:30pm
Four Breakouts: TP/LD by NCFCA/Stoa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare everyone's mindmaps so far. Show and tell ONLY. Facilitated. • Synthesize info and make up your own mind! 	Coaches Laurie, Reeves, ???, and ???	2:30pm
<i>TP-Only (while LDers continue their research): Identifying the GENERIC POSITIONS, TOP PROBLEMS, and KEY SOLUTIONS</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GAO reports</i> • <i>Solution journals</i> • <i>Conference talks</i> • <i>Example briefs / generic positions</i> 	Coach Isaiah	3:30pm
<i>LD-Only (while TPer continue their research): Syllogistic LD Case Structure for both AFF and NEG</i>	Coach Isaiah	4:30pm
Assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDers: Build syllogistic case OUTLINE • TPer: Build GENERIC negative case or two 	With your club Solo if you're solo	

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Day 3: Wednesday, August 12

Keep doing your assignment or whatever your coaches have for you	With your club Solo if you're solo	morning
<i>TP-Only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Problem-based AFF standards</i> • <i>Topicality Press + Generics as anti-squirrel strategies</i> • <i>Assignment: create this T-press / top 10 probs</i> 	Coach Isaiah	1pm
<i>LD-Only: how to execute this flex-neg strategy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Example NEG files to look at</i> • <i>Example videos to watch later</i> 	Coach Isaiah	2:30pm
<i>Wrapping Up Research Camp:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Structuring DAs (TP) and Consequences (LD)</i> • <i>Build your own club assignments / research ops for the year</i> • <i>Stay away from sourcebooks until January</i> • <i>Q&A</i> • <i>Conflicting Leftists in the Public Sphere video</i> 	Isaiah	4:00pm

Day 4: Thursday, August 13

How to debate in ONLINE tournaments	Heather Neumann	11:00 am
STOA & NCFCA, LD & TP Break Outs with special guests	special guests	12:00 pm
Lunch Break	Discord Social Rooms Open for students, coaches, and parents	1:30 pm
Refutation + Drill (Superfight!)	Coach Laurie	
Delivery & Drill (May be replaced with another drill)	Joshua Reeves	2:30 pm
STOA & NCFCA break outs - Evidence Standards, LD Rules, & Changes, TP Rules & Changes Kahoots)	Coach Laurie Joshua Reeves	3:30 pm
Small group research - continue adding to your mind map		4:30 pm
Assignment: Prep for tomorrow's events	Coach Laurie	6:00 pm

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Day 5: Friday, August 14

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TP debates <i>which of top 10 problems is most important and viable to solve</i>• LD research/case critiques with Isaiah (someone shows their stuff, Isaiah works through it and gives lessons to all; repeat)	Coaches Laurie and Isaiah	11am
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LD debates <i>which school of thought is the best for each side</i>• TP research/case critiques with Isaiah (someone shows their stuff; Isaiah works through it and gives lessons to all; repeat)	Coaches Laurie and Isaiah	1pm
Lunch Break	Discord Social Rooms Open for students, coaches, and parents	3:00 pm
Skill/practice (Spar Debates)	Coach Laurie Joshua Reeves	4:00 pm
<i>Closing Keynote: How Peacemakers Persuade</i>	Isaiah McPeak	5:00 pm