

TEAM MEMBERSHIP — 2026

A program is nothing without good students.

Built by competitors, for competitors. A strategy team, not a file shop — last season our students won, finaled, and semi-finaled the Tournament of Champions.

Who are we?

Last season our students won, finaled, and semi-finaled the Tournament of Champions, and we coached four of the country's top ten debaters — including the number-one ranked debater in the nation. The pages that follow show the receipts, and introduce the coaches behind them.

4/10

Top-ten debaters

of the nation's ten best debaters were coached by CME — including the #1 overall.

4/5

Independent debaters

of the top independents were ours — competing without an institutional program behind them.

Good student selection is everything. Do you have what we're looking for?

Last season, by the numbers

End-of-season debater rankings across the national circuit. CME coached four of the top ten, including the #1 ranked debater.

RANK	SCHOOL	DEBATER	RATING	
1	Lynbrook	Bolang Zhu	2215.10	CME
2	Peninsula	Sterling Utovac	2194.38	
3	Head-Royce	Alexander Jayaratne	2154.90	CME
4	Lynbrook	Om Modi	2091.14	CME
5	Harker	Siddhartha Daswani	2056.87	
6	Marlborough	Abby Merges	2036.98	
7	Plano West	Angel Ribo	2034.71	
8	Harker	Sanjith Senthil	2024.48	
9	Greenhill	Sarah Koshy	2023.88	
10	McNeil	Atharva Srivastava	2020.71	CME

 CME-coached debater  Institutional program  Competitor institution

Ratings reflect end-of-season competitive standing across the national circuit. The full Tournament of Champions bracket appears on the following page.

The bracket

Our students won, finaled, and semi-finaled the TOC — the season’s most competitive field.

CME students

Institutional programs

Our competitors

OCTAS · 16	QUARTERS · 8	SEMIS · 4	FINALS · 2	CHAMPION
PeninsulaSU	PeninsulaSU	HarkerSSe	LynbrookBZ	
CoppellKT	HarkerSSe			
HarkerSS	GreenhillSK	LynbrookBZ		
HarkerSSe	LynbrookBZ			LynbrookBZ
Horace GreeleySG	MarlboroughAM	McNeilAS	Head-RoyceAJ	
GreenhillSK	McNeilAS	Head-RoyceAJ		
LynbrookVV	HarkerAA			
LynbrookBZ	Head-RoyceAJ			
MarlboroughAM				
Plano WestAR				
McNeilAS				
LynbrookOM				
Harvard-Westla...AS				
HarkerAA				
Plano WestSG				
Head-RoyceAJ				

We closed out the TOC

Both finalists were ours.

Champion

Bolang Zhu

Lynbrook · #1 overall

Finalist

Alexander Jayaratne

Head-Royce

Semifinalist

Atharva Srivastava

McNeil

Our founders

Sebastian Cho

Sebastian has had his share of coaching success; prestige and competition are secondary to his focus on building a community, democratizing access, and learning how to think.

“I’m most proud of my ability to bring a 3–3 debater to the TOC. It’s a formula I’ve workshopped to the point of repeatability, and I’m excited to share my method with the rest of CME Strategy.”

Shreeram Modi

Shreeram rebuilt his entire understanding of debate in college, having been — by his own admission — a mediocre debater in high school. He used that process to develop a coaching philosophy that led Lynbrook HS to some of the most dominant LD seasons in recent history.

He’s best known for what he’s provided for free: scripts and macros that most top programs use, a community group for LD document sharing, and articles, lessons, and rankings that have helped dozens. Giving back is at the heart of his ethic.

Aidan Etkin

Aidan believes in teaching arguments instead of having debaters memorize them: most students can identify what strategies win — Aidan focuses on the why.

He’s figured out what it means to strategize in any and every scenario; it’s no surprise that his students dominate in LD, CX and PF alike.

Lincoln-Douglas

Pricing

\$4,000 / year

Ask us about discounts and scholarships
— we don't want cost to keep out a
student who belongs here.

**Great debaters give a speech
every week. The best give
one every day.**

Deliberate practice — the core of how we teach

Education psychology and cognitive science have repeatedly found that rapid, accurate feedback accelerates skill acquisition — you correct errors before they become habits.

At CME, you can give a speech, whenever you want, in front of 15+ coaches and 50+ debaters. The only question is what you'll do with it.

Inside the program

Chat

A moderated Slack with top debaters from across the country trading strategies, and a staff ready to answer your questions.

Prep

A tournament-ready Dropbox built by circuit competitors, plus backfiles for any gaps. We don't hand you blocks — we teach you how the arguments work.

Community

Debate is better together. CME gathers the country's most motivated debaters — higher scores, better outcomes, sharper company.

Check-in

Don't get lost in the crowd. We check in to address your specific concerns and hold you to your goals.

Office Hours

Weekly live sessions where coaches review files, listen to speeches, and answer any question you bring.

Labs

Three labs mixing skill levels and styles, grouped Novice / JV / Varsity. Varsity gets its own prep silo and is expected to lead. Labs are a Lincoln-Douglas offering; Public Forum prep runs through 1:3 cohorts.

For Parents

We keep you in the loop. Monthly newsletters update you on the team and what your debater is working on, a student progress tracker gives you visibility into their growth, and we hold one parent meeting per semester to answer questions and share updates directly.

Public Forum

A lab built around your team.

Public Forum runs on a lab-like cohort model. Groups of three teams work closely with one dedicated coach, matched to each team's profile as debaters. Every cohort gets its own exclusive prep alongside the shared topic prep available to the whole group.

1:3

Cohort model

Three teams to one dedicated coach, matched to each team's profile as debaters.

\$2,000

Per student, per season

Includes the same membership benefits as Lincoln-Douglas, with prep delivered through your cohort.

Why a cohort model

Identical prep across a whole group means no one can surprise anyone. Cohorts solve that exclusivity problem, build genuine community, and let each coach tailor a learning plan to the debaters in front of them.

Our Public Forum roster is being finalized for the 2026–27 season. If you want a cohort built around your team, get in touch.

Additional Offerings

Concierge · Travel & Lodging

We book it, at market rate, with perks you'd miss.

Every national circuit tournament means comparing fares, tracking price drops, coordinating lodging, and redoing it all when the schedule shifts — times a full season. We handle all of it: flights and lodging booked at market rate, with perks like free checked bags. You pay the same fare you'd find yourself.

Your cost

Free.

Same fare, none of the work. The only thing you give up is the hour you'd have spent booking.

Best for locked-in schedules. Because we book at market rate through a travel partner, itineraries are final — no changes or cancellations once booked. If your plans are set, that's how we keep it free. If your schedule tends to shift, a flexible fare you book yourself may suit you better.

Drills

Deliberate practice works best with direct feedback. 1-on-1 drill sessions give you exactly that — a coach in your corner, focused on nothing but your improvement.

Onsite

Your coach travels with you. Before each round we break down your judge, sharpen your strategy, and make sure you're ready. Between rounds we debrief, adjust, and cut any cards you need.

Onsite coaches assist CME students whose opponents don't have onsite coaching, but step back when both debaters are onsite clients.

Onsite pricing is subject to fluctuation by tournament and is announced a month in advance, minimum.

Surround yourself with the people of the future.

Good student selection is everything. If you take this activity as seriously as we do, we'd like to hear from you.

[Speak with us](#)