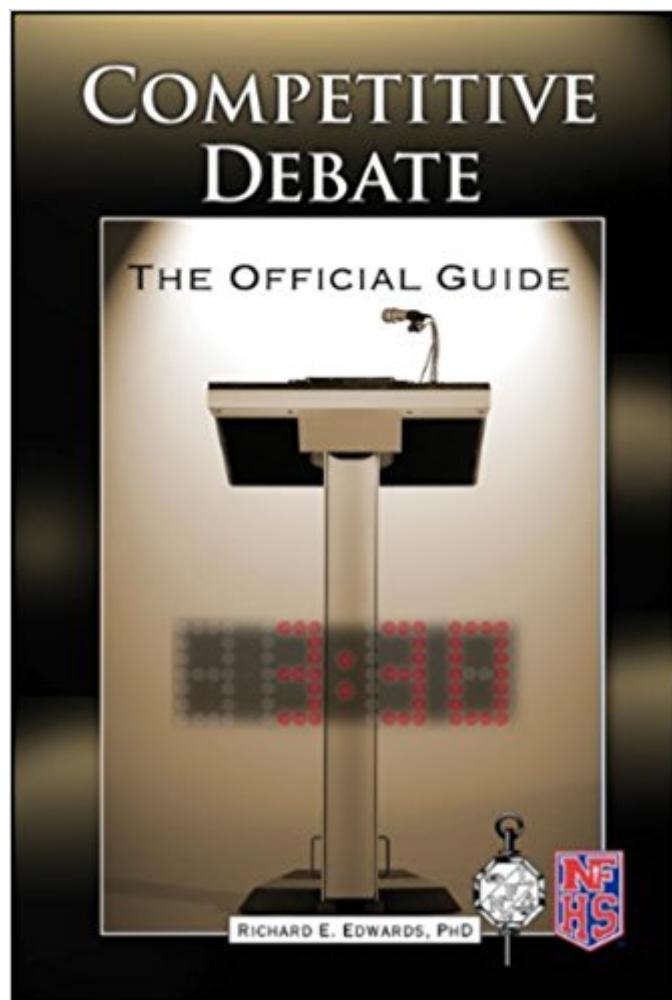


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# Competitive Debate: The Official Guide



## **Synopsis**

The bible for debaters and their coaches. Nearly every high school and college in America has a debate club and/or a debate team. There are hundreds of competitions at the county and state level, culminating in heated national competitions. Yet, at many high schools and colleges, coaches are drawn from the history or English departments with little or no experience in the highly structured procedures of this popular discipline. And while competitive debate has been growing each year as a prime academic activity, there have been no popular handbooks to help students and coaches prepare for contests effectively and efficiently. Practical and authoritative, this guide includes not only tips and guidelines for effective preparation and delivery, but full-length, actual transcripts of successful competitions in each format. Endorsed by the two national governing bodies for competitive debate—the National Federation of State High School Associations and the National Forensic League—and priced for the budget-conscious student and high school teacher alike, *Competitive Debate: The Official Guide* is set to become the instructional "bible" for tens of thousands of present and future debaters and their coaches. Inside, Dr. Richard Edwards—award-winning debate coach, professor, former competitive debate judge, and author—leads readers through the three popular formats of competitive debate: \* Policy Debate \* Lincoln-Douglas Debate \* Public Forum Debate

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## **Customer Reviews**

I advise the student-led debate club at our community college. Though I believe the guide was written primarily for high school debate coaches, I bought copies for the officers of our debate club after first reading it myself. The guide is straight-forward and has a lot of clear explanations and examples that can be applied immediately. Though I have to buy copies of this guide out of my own pocket since we don't have a budget for them in my department, I will be purchasing them again this year for my students - I think it is a good investment.

This book is exactly what I was looking for to use for my classes. I want to use debate as a way to teach Federal Government. The book is clear and easily read. I've go a lot of good ideas for conducting our debates and for teaching students about argument.

This is a really great book. I am an English teacher/librarian with no real experience coaching debate, but this really got me on the right track. I would recommend it for debaters and coaches, and I think there is something in here even for experienced debaters. Other reviewers have mentioned that the research section was a bit dated, but this book was easily worth it's weight in gold to someone like me, even if you tear those pages out. I think even public forum debaters who have so much less technical stuff to deal with would benefit from reading the chapters on Policy debate so they can understand the pedigree of Public Forum, how the "stock issues" work, etc.

This book really gives you a basic understanding of debate fundamentals. I've even used this book as a guide in my debate rounds! It is a somewhat outdated book, regarding common debate terms, but still applies in modern competitive debate. The quality of the book, however, was lower than what I expected. Highlighter and worn pages were frequent throughout the book.

I am a new coach and this book was extremely helpful in both explaining and giving advice on each competitive debate event. Very pleased with the purchase.

I would have liked to have given this a higher rating, but I found that it was a little too basic for what I

wanted. I was looking for a book to help me with the theory behind argumentation in university level debate, but unfortunately this book was really aimed at a lower level of competition. The explanations were a little too basic, and did not address parliamentary styles (Canadian Parliamentary and British Parliamentary). I would recommend this for high schoolers, but certainly not for the university level.

As I get back into high school debate -- this time as a coach -- after 30 years away, this was a useful refresher.

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