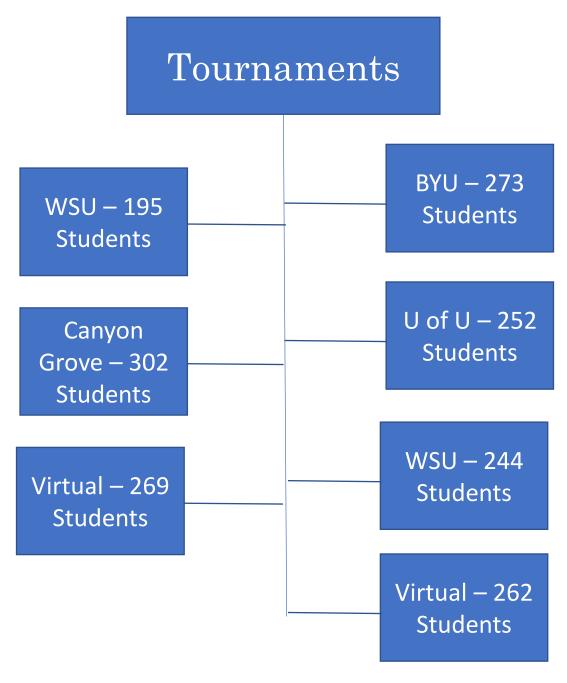


2019-2020
Wasatch Independent
Debate League
Annual Report

Year in Review

We had a great year this year with 375 students, 23 classes each week, and seven tournaments. Along with the rest of the world we had to adjust with the COVID-19 pandemic, but we were able to hold virtual tournaments and online class, and coronavirus provided an extemporaneous topic that everyone had some experience with.





About Us

Founded in 2008, the Wasatch Independent Debate League now serves over 350 students. We are dedicated to creating the best possible educational experience for our students — experiences that are inspiring, motivating, and fun. We believe that students who can research effectively, examine ideas critically, and express themselves thoughtfully and dynamically will reap benefits in every aspect of their life.





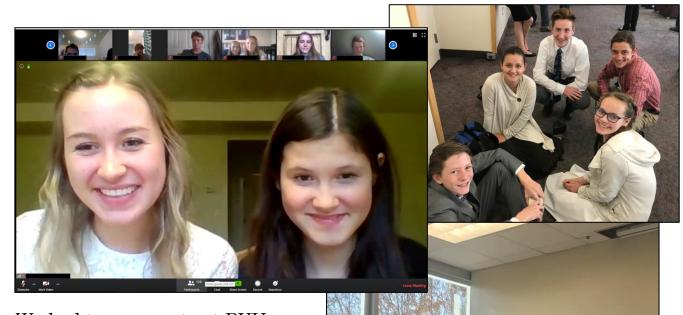


Tournaments are an essential part of the WIDL experience. Students compete in a range of events, from oratory (7-10 minute speeches on topics of their choice), to Lincoln Douglas (45 minute debate on topics like Resolved: governments ought not punish homeless people sleeping

outside when there is not sufficient free shelter for them) to extemporaneous (which is a seven minute speech on a current events topic like impeachment, Hong Kong protests, or coronavirus, prepared on the spot). In all there are seven events, some of which have junior divisions.



Tournaments provide students with the chance to research, prepare, speak and debate in a fun, motivating environment. Faced with real and often complicated topics students apply what they have learned to deliver their ideas compellingly to the judges and their peers.



We had tournaments at BYU, Weber State, the University of Utah, Canyon Grove Academy, and had to move tournaments scheduled at American Heritage School and BYU online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Competing in spar at his first tournament, **Jaron**, said he learned "sometimes you have to look at other people's perspectives and look at other sides of things." Asked how he was enjoying the tournament so far he said, "I love it. It's really fun!"

Other Activities



- - A team competed at BYU's **Model United Nations** Conference and received the top three "Superior Delegation" recognition

We gathered 18,923 lbs of food as part of our annual

The student council organized a trip to the capitol building to see the legislature in session.

food drive

- Three teams comprised of students from the league reached the semifinals and two reached the finals in the Jr. High mock trial division
- Three teams comprised of students from the league reached the semifinals and one reached the finals in the high school mock trial division
- Students got to be the judges at the alumni and parents tournament, where we had about 25 parents and alumni competing

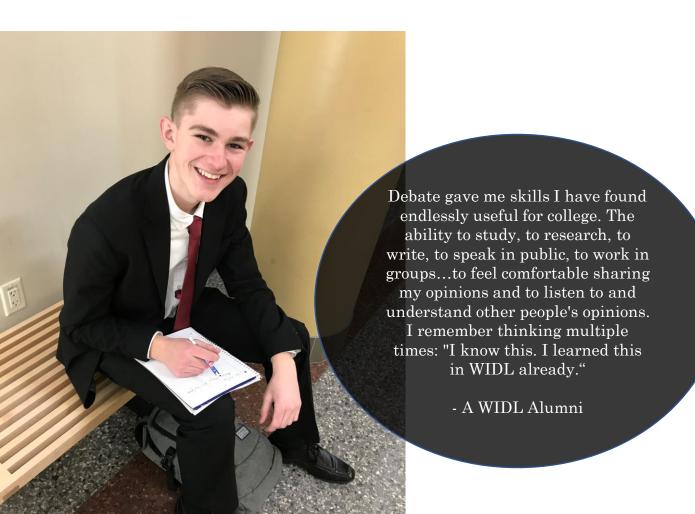


*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the mock trial final championships were cancelled

The Results

We hope to provide our students with the educational experiences they need to succeed long into the future. Public speaking remains a large part of most of our alumni's lives, in a recent survey 75% reported that they had given a speech or presentation in the last six months. One former student added, "Although it's been several years since I did debate, the experience was very impactful. I enjoy public speaking now in a way that I doubt I would have without debate. This allows me to make a good impression in interviews, meetings, etc."

Over 90% of our students go on to attend a college or university. A majority of those attended a WIDL tournament at that college prior to their schooling there.



Looking beyond college, debate continues to be an influence for good. 58% of our alumni voted in the most recent election (compared to a national average of ~20% for their peers). The following are a sample of some of the things the alumni said in the survey:

- It's been the single most impactful extra curricular activity I've done and has been a cornerstone of professional success in my career.
- The debate community has been probably the most influential group of people I've ever met. They have become some of my greatest friends, and they inspire me to be and do better.
- It has increased my confidence in every aspect of life.
- Because of debate, I can look to opposing arguments and identify the greater truth more effectively. I have become confident in expressing my ideas and defending what I know is true.



Thanks to our Sponsors!









