

SUCCESS

Forensics is unmatched among co-curricular activities in its cognitive, professional, and social benefits to participants. Students who are involved in debate, public speaking, and interpretation have a number of advantages over their peers. They typically demonstrate superior critical thinking skills, score higher on standardized tests and classroom assessments, and are more likely to attend college. The benefits of forensic education also extend to the personal realm, as participants demonstrate higher levels of self-confidence and independence. Many even come to view their team as a surrogate family, offering affirmation and support during the tumultuous teenage years. By building students one at a time, educators can improve the entire learning community.

## *Giving Youth a Voice*

While different institutions may embrace a variety of programs and curricula to achieve excellence, an important thread runs among the top secondary schools in the United States: **affiliation with the National Forensic League.** We welcome the opportunity to speak with you about the remarkable ways in which forensics enriches education and propels students toward excellence.

*For more information, please contact us:*

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## The National Forensic League

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## ENRICHING EDUCATION



# HISTORY

The National Forensic League (NFL) is a non-partisan, not for profit educational honor society established to encourage and motivate high school students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic arts: debate, public speaking, and interpretation. Currently over 93,000 high school students and over 7,000 high school teachers are building their linguistic, cognitive, leadership, and presentational skills in the NFL.

Since Bruno E. Jacob first envisioned the League in 1925, the NFL has enrolled over 1.3 million members in all fifty states. Many of these members have risen to the pinnacle of their respective fields, including former Vice President Hubert Humphrey; Senators Richard Lugar, Russ Feingold, and William Frist; media visionaries Ted Turner and Oprah Winfrey; Emmy award winners Kelsey Grammer and Shelly Long; news anchor Jane Pauley; C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb; Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer; and actors Brad Pitt, Michael Urie, and James Dean.

Over \$153,000 in college scholarships are awarded at each annual NFL national tournament, enabling talented and deserving students to pursue post-secondary education. Through its tournament, services, and outreach, the NFL aspires to continue its 84-year tradition of excellence and pursue its mission of giving youth a voice.

“ There is *hope* through speech and debate. All kids, no matter who they are, have *talent* in them. ”

~ Tommie Lindsey, teacher and award-winning coach at James Logan High School in California



# STRATEGY

integrity | humility | respect | leadership | service

## STRATEGY

*As competition and innovation increase throughout the world, quality education becomes increasingly critical. Once relegated to an elite few, quality education is now the right of all American students. It is also their primary means of survival in a fast-changing society. More than ever, students and families demand schools of*

*excellence. The National Forensic League (NFL) provides a distinct and proven mechanism to bring excellence to every school through the forensic arts: debate, public speaking, and interpretation. By drawing on history and implementing strategy, the NFL can help any school reach new heights in student achievement and academic success.*



The NFL approach is simple yet radical: rather than teach students a body of knowledge, forensics provides a unique tool with which students can analyze and synthesize all other information. In doing so, forensics helps students examine all subjects from a critical angle while finding personal connections and meaning within the content. This approach increases retention and understanding while also promoting student engagement and satisfaction.

Interestingly, forensic education affords significant benefits to both gifted and under-performing students, enabling both groups to learn at their own pace and forge personal connections with the material. Similarly, forensics is equally accessible to wealthy and disadvantaged schools, rural and urban schools, award winning and struggling schools. Anywhere stories are told and arguments rendered, forensics is available to augment the learning process.