

Jaden Lessnick '16, Emory '20

Policy Debater, Soccer Player—"Debate taught me commitment. When my family moved, I decided to board here because of my dedication to debate. Debate has taught me to be an adaptive thinker, consider new perspectives, and think on my feet. Constantly responding to new scenarios within time constraints will help me deal with the contingencies of college and medicine."

Joseph Wang '18

PF Debater, Entrepreneur Club—"I transferred to Rowland Hall for debate because I know what it can do for my presentation and critical-thinking skills. I hope to be an engineer or neuroscientist and debate has helped me expand my thinking. Plus, it's fun!"

Emily Fowler '18

PF Debater, Musical Actress, Volleyball Player—"I hope to be a mechanical engineer or architect and debate will add to my skillset. Debate has made me a better public speaker and communicator, as well as a better class and team member."

Sydney Young '19

Policy Debater, Competitive Sailor—"Debate is a game that requires strategy and critical-thinking skills. In sailing, the course you travel is more important than how fast you sail. Therefore, critical thinking becomes very important, and debate has helped me improve this skill."

Jordan Abdalla '17

PF Debater, Soccer Player, Investor Club President—"Debate teaches you how to approach and understand arguments and information in a more complex and nuanced way. The ability to articulate your ideas is of paramount importance within the business world. I enjoy engaging in a metaphorical chess match with different people."

Atticus Hickman '19

Policy Debater, Violinist—"Debate lets me express myself and be a part of a team. In debate, it's cool to be smart and it has taught me how to talk about almost any issue."

Rustin Armknecht '16, Lafayette College '20

PF Debater, Student Leader—"Debate helped me develop a voice. I'm more confident in expressing my opinions and I know how to respectfully disagree with others and argue my thoughts."

Emily Gordon '16, Harvard '20

Policy Debater, Competitive Equestrian, Artist—"I love being around people dedicated to an activity that is so intellectually stimulating and rigorous. When I become a doctor, my debate experience will help me form connections with colleagues, conduct research, and maintain a strong work ethic."

Bella Goh '18

PF Debater, Swimmer, Peer Coach—"Debate has improved my confidence in public speaking, as well as fluency in writing. It has taught me the important skills of addressing complicated topics respectfully and effectively, and thinking on the spot. It has provided the skill-set I needed to become a leader and an example to my swimming teammates."

Kenzo Okazaki '17

LD Debater, Swimmer—"Debating one-on-one means more pressure, but I've learned to handle nerves and to perform in tough situations."

Anna Greenberg '17

PF Debater, Tennis Captain—"Debate taught me valuable public-speaking skills and has given me confidence. Debate immerses you in a competitive environment and exposes you to controversial topics. As a young adult, I think it's incredibly important to know about current events. Debate amplifies the skills needed to succeed in school and the real world."

Madison Barker '17

Policy Debater, Musician—"Over the past five years debate has allowed me to find my second family. Debate is an incredible academic pursuit but also has also given me a social network, rich relationships, and the emotional intelligence to build lasting friendships."

David Bernstein '17

Policy Debater, Musician—"Debate taught me to think creatively and on my feet. Although debate and music may seem different, the ability to improvise in debate while making an argument and improvisation while playing an instrument are extremely connected."

Great Debate