

CLASH: From Principles to Strategy

Vision	Participation in Clash is a decisive step toward becoming a mature man or woman of Christian character, well practiced in spiritually useful life skills. In pursuit of these high goals, we will hone our debate skills together, building lasting ties of friendship and service with each other and with the wider community, that God may extend His kingdom and be glorified in us.	
Principles	<p><i>Love of God and Love of Neighbor Exhibited in Christian Character</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Love God's wisdom; think His thoughts after Him. Hope in God's coming Kingdom; desire His will done. Seek God's righteousness; live with integrity. Be bold for God's glory, but modest about my own needs. Recognize the Image of God in every person. Serve my neighbor in love, freely sharing my gifts. Listen well to my neighbor; understand him or her. Speak to every person with grace and truth. 	
Life Skills	<p><u>Personal</u></p> <p>Research/Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate various viewpoints, even alien or opposing ones. Stay abreast of current events and ideas in the world. Effectively manage our time, tasks, and resources. <p>Thinking/Reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sift complex evidence/arguments to distill essential ideas. Develop and enhance critical thinking, logic, and reason. Weigh opposing or complementary viewpoints. Know clearly what we believe and support it honestly and intelligently. <p>Self Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rejoice in the excellence of friends and "opponents." Humbly accept both winning and losing. 	<p><u>Interpersonal</u></p> <p>Speaking/Persuasion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare logically organized speeches. Speak clearly and persuasively to a critical audience. Criticize or oppose ideas, not persons. Know how to answer gently. Develop confidence as public speakers. <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat others as eternally significant, not as a means to an end. Show friendship and hospitality especially to those we don't know well. Serve and teach others less advanced/skilled/mature. Gratefully accept criticism, coaching, and correction. Work cooperatively in a team.
Ethics & Etiquette	<p>Generosity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serve your opponents by doing your best in a clash of ideas. Be helpful to all others – not "us" vs. "them" Share and exchange evidence, criticism, strategies. <p>Respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The League</i>: Respect and obey NCFCA league rules. <i>The Topic</i>: Honor the bounds of the topic. <i>The Club</i>: Follow your leaders – keep your commitments. <i>Opponents and Judges</i>: Show gratitude to every opposing debater as a friend, and every judge as an advisor. 	<p>Fair Speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always speak kindly and courteously. Argue logically, support points honestly, and clash squarely. Win through clarity, not confusion. Speak honorably of opponents and judges. Answer opponent's questions accurately yet prudently.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cultivate skilled debaters whose lives reflect Christian integrity. Develop members (debaters and parents) who serve and lead in the community. Build life-long friendships based on trust and cooperation. Present a favorable and effective witness to the community. 	
Strategies	<p>Debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage habits of humility, self-control, confidence, and honesty. Training Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small group emphasis. Frequent opportunities for practice and evaluation. Promote practices that reach the "thinking man on the street." Input skills: Reading, research, listening, and audience assessment. Processing skills: Critical thinking, topic mastery, planning and management, self-criticism. Output skills: Delivery, body language, grooming and attire, cross-ex., use of evidence. 	<p>Service/Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve every parent in both ongoing activities and major events. Training through mentoring: Experienced debaters pass on their skills. Each debater to sharpen and encourage the others. <p>Friendship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require family participation in meetings and functions. Encourage sibling involvement (e.g., timers). Sponsor events for all members to support and enjoy. <p>Witness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite community involvement in league functions. (Judges, invited speakers, suppliers.) Opportunities for Clash members to speak and interact outside the league.