



How to Choose the Right Summer Debate Program for Your Student:

Helpful hints from The University of Iowa

Choosing the right summer debate program for your student can be a stressful task. The University of Iowa would like to give some helpful questions to ask when making your decision:

1. **How stable is the program? Does it move around a lot? Has it been around for less than five years?**
2. **Can your student earn college credit while attending?**
3. **How structured is the program? Who's in charge of taking responsibility for the student? How much experience do they have in regard to high school students?**
4. **Does the program offer a versatile staff or are most concentrated in one area?**
5. **Do the students get unlimited access to research facilities, or is there a time limit?**
6. **Is there access to coaching throughout the year?**
7. **Are there any "hidden" fees? Do you have to purchase supplemental material?**
8. **Who will be responsible if legal recourse is needed?**
9. **Does the program allow students to be pro-active? How innovative is the program? Are students allowed to choose what they want to study?**
10. **Is the program for-profit or not-for-profit? Is your student just another dollar sign?**