



GET INVOLVED IN 2019-2020

We made the process easy for you!

- 1** Apply at NSDABigQuestions.org to host your event starting in August. Apply early—funding is limited! Use our free resources to prepare for your tournament.
- 2** Promote, hold your event, and turn in a brief form after your event to provide feedback on the format.
- 3** Spend the Big Questions grant award! You can purchase supplies for your classroom or fund speech and debate activities.

WHAT IS BIG QUESTIONS?

Big Questions is a debate format in which high school and middle school students will grapple with complex worldview questions. They debate both sides of a topic determined at the beginning of the school year.

Schools are eligible to earn thousands of dollars by facilitating Big Questions debates. This past year, Big Questions Debate events occurred in over 40 states, with 20,000 students competing for \$20,000 in scholarships awarded at the 2019 National Speech & Debate Tournament.

FORMAT AND STRUCTURE

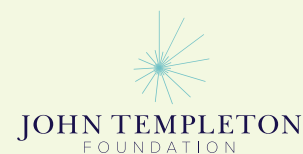
Big Questions is an accessible debate format that can be added to your tournament, held during your classroom period, or even done internally amongst your team.

The Big Questions format involves two opposing sides debating a topic concerning the intersection of science, philosophy, and religion. Students can choose to compete individually or with a partner.

Competitors are assigned a side, present the case, engage in rebuttal, and participate in question periods.

EARN MEMBERSHIP THROUGH BIG QUESTIONS

Due to the demand for the Big Questions grant, only NSDA members will be eligible to receive funding. If you currently are a non-member school, you can use part of your Big Questions grant to cover the cost of membership!



Big Questions is presented by the NSDA through a generous grant provided by the John Templeton Foundation. Grant money will be awarded to speech and debate programs across the country who host Big Questions events.



PLANNING TO APPLY? SIGN UP FOR REMINDERS!
NSDABigQuestions.org

Contact us at info@speechanddebate.org with questions about how to get involved today!

JOIN THE DEBATE

APPLY TODAY!



Engage students in debates on science and philosophy! 2019-2020 topic is, *Resolved: Objective morality exists.*

Minimum requirements

At least 15 students should compete in 3 rounds. Elimination rounds are not required, and rounds do not need to be held in one day. Students and judges will fill out a brief survey after the event.

Hold the event in whatever way works best for you! Some ideas:

- Hold a scrimmage with your team members at an after--school practice.
- Invite science teachers to do debates in their classroom during the school day.
- Add Big Questions as an event at your upcoming tournament.

Do I need to be a member to hold an event?

Due to the demand for the Big Questions Grant, only NSDA members will be eligible to receive funding. If you are currently a non--member school, you can apply part of your Big Questions grant to cover the cost of membership! NSDA membership benefits include:

- Honor Society Membership for coach and student recognition
- Access to resources including textbooks, lesson plans, and topic analyses
- Access to district and National tournament series
- Access to National Tournament videos through 2018

Money earned depends on the number of schools and student competitors:

- If your event has 1-2 schools compete, you will earn \$250 for the first 15 students. Each additional student will earn your program \$10.
- If your event has 3 or more schools compete, you will earn \$400 for the first 15 students. Each additional student over the 15 minimum will earn your program \$20.
- Host several events to earn more money for your program! There is a \$5,000 cap per entity.

What free resources are available?

- All resources and lesson plans can be found on our website: NSDABigQuestions.org
- Sample cases, demonstration round videos, judge training course, format manual, and topic analysis

New to debate? Big Questions is for you!

Our goal is to make Big Questions an easy, fun way to raise money for your program. We can provide tournament and logistical support or develop any student/judge resources that would help!

Interested? Here's the process:

1. Apply Now! Funding is limited.
2. Use our free online resources!
3. Host your event.
4. Fill out the reporting form and surveys. Attach your results and any photos from your event!

Questions?

Contact info@speechanddebate.org for more information. More details can be found on NSDABigQuestions.org.