The Speech & Debate Program consists of the instructional component of the Speech and Debate class, with the co-curricular speech and debate tournaments. Events regularly occur on Fridays and Saturdays, so students have to be at school by 7 a.m. in order to travel to our designated tournament host school.

This past year, students had the opportunity to compete in:

- Policy Debate
- Impromptu Speech
- Original Advocacy
- Original Oratory
- Expository Speech
- Poetry Out Loud
- Oratorical Interpretation

Speech & Debate Course

A two-semester course of the English Department offers instruction in the fundamentals of effective oral delivery, including body control, use of voice and diction, and analysis of audience. Instruction stresses organization, selection, and arrangement of material and use of transitions and rhetorical effects in making speeches to inform, persuade, or entertain. Supporting material, methods of research, critical thinking, logical argumentation, and effective language are applied in learning discussion and debate techniques. Students will also study communication techniques of governments and corporations in a persuasive context. Click here for a detailed course outline.

This year, national high school policy debate will focus on the following resolution: **Resolved:** The United States federal government should substantially increase its development and/or exploration of the Earth's oceans.

Speech and Debate Teams

Any student at L.A. Leadership Academy High School may participate on the Speech & Debate Team. If a student is not taking the Speech & Debate class, they will have to meet with the teacher to form an after-school practice schedule. We are members of the California High School Speech Association. The association is split into regions and leagues. L.A. Leadership Academy competes in the Southern California Debate League. Click here for more information regarding the Speech & Debate Team as an activity, tournament schedules, and other pertinent information.