

Open letter to CCofSE Policy debaters and coaches from the CCofSE debate committee.

Participation in academic debate has many benefits. Among them are learning to think critically and argumentatively, learning to respect differing opinions by looking at both sides of an issue, and fostering the development of speech and debate skills.

These are worthy goals. But from the beginning a higher and more important goal of our League has been to foster the development of Christ-like character in our debaters and speakers.

The debate committee has become increasingly aware of continuing misunderstandings between CCofSE clubs. As brothers and sisters in Christ we are called to treat one another with honor and respect. (Romans 12:10)

As we begin a new season of debate, the following are some of the character qualities we would like to see grow in our League .

Gratitude - regardless of the outcome of the round (1 Thessalonians 5:18) respect - for judges, parents, and fellow debaters (1 Peter 2:17)

Humility – a heart attitude of courtesy, patience and deference toward others. (Philippians 2:3)

Speaking only what is edifying - Gossip and the spreading of rumors do not belong in our League. (Proverbs 11:13) (Ephesians 4:29)

Transparency - Relying on deception or frivolous arguments to win rounds is not consistent with the goals of this League. The best debaters have a thorough knowledge of the topic and learn to present their arguments with excellence. (See Paul's example in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

Should an issue come up in a CCofSE event that needs to be resolved, we ask that you follow the biblical guidelines found in Matthew 18.

Keep the matter confidential by going to the individual first. Most differences can be resolved this way.

Keep the circle small. If the issue is not resolved, prayerfully take it to your coach who may or may not choose to take it to the tournament director.

Be forgiving. Choose not to take offense whenever possible.

