



Our Seminar Philosophy

Ethos is never satisfied with the “what” of debate—we focus on the how and why. We have found that understanding principles of thinking and debate are the foundation for building habits of critical analysis, problem solving, and wisdom. Our instruction is built on classical rhetoric and the experience of national championship debaters and coaches to provide you with depth and truth. We truly have a passion for not just debate but training the next generation how to communicate and think. Our seminars push students to expand their grasp of the topic area, strategy, speaking, and theory by pressing them beyond mimicking to *understanding*.

What to Expect

Ethos goes beyond the basics and tackles the toughest issues in debate, helping you practice the answer to questions like... How do you explain the same concept so multiple audiences get it? Where did parametrics come from? How does four point refutation look in the real world? How should you prepare your flowpad for cross-examination or people who don’t connect with the “regular” way? How do I win an outround with a panel of community judges, using debate theory? How do I extend my cross-examination time? What is the optimal argument lineup for each speaker position?

We will provide intense instruction, hours of practice opportunity, and a fun environment where questions are welcomed and treated seriously. We want parents to be there too so they know what their students are being taught and can feel free to join in to discuss, learn, and even practice (only if you want to). Usually we spend the morning talking to you with limited practice and spend the afternoon practicing skills and talking less.

Most of our events have a host who coordinates host housing. Our hope is that nobody has to shell out an arm and a leg to learn. That’s why we use the day-camps model and usually do not provide dormitory-style housing and cafeteria-style food.

I Want to Schedule an Event!

All you need: A facility with 3 rooms and 15 paying students. It’s that easy!

Length	Base Cost
5-Day Conference	\$175 \$125 2 nd Sibling \$75 3 rd Sibling
3-Day	\$105 \$80 2 nd Sibling \$65 3 rd Sibling
1-Day Workshop	\$40 \$30 other siblings



Ethos Seminar Terms:

The most important reminder: this is your event! We bring the debate instruction, but the rest is up to you!

(1) **Duties:** Ethos provides instructors and instruction materials only. We do not provide liability insurance as applicable, monitoring of students during free time, meals, or any organization of non-debate activities such as cleaning up facilities, group games, etc, all of which are provided by the Host. Ethos has final say over the debate portions of the schedule, but happily accepts input from the Host (especially ahead of time) on what content the Host would especially like emphasized.

(2) **Meals** are arranged solely at the discretion of the host. We are happy to collect the money so that attendees only have to submit a single payment, but the host determines any local business sponsorships, amount to charge, profits to be made by the host (or host club), and so on. We only ask the host to consider that some students have allergies, which they ought to declare, and that we like Chipotle Mexican Grill more than just about anything if we are ordering out. Usually lunch (and a snack when we're in the south) is provided, but additional meals or parties at the facility or other locations are all within the host's options.

(3) **Instructors:** There is always at least one **senior instructor**. We also bring **instructors** and **assistants** as deemed appropriate solely by Ethos. Senior instructors must have graduated from high school, be 18 or older, have participated as an instructor at a previous Ethos seminar, and be determined by Ethos as capable of leading a seminar to successful delivery. We hand pick our teams as a whole, considering which personalities work together, ensuring there are alternative viewpoints, and producing the magic sauce that sets our events apart.

(4) **Costs** are determined by how many instructors we bring and the size of seminar. **At minimum** (base fee), we bring **1.5** instructors (full time equivalent) for 15 students, **2** instructors for 20-25 students, **3** instructors for 26-39 students, and **4** instructors for 40-55 students. We usually are able to provide more instructors, such as part-time assistants to bridge the gaps between 3 and 4 instructors. It is our job to provide a fantastic seminar and we will do the necessary planning to ensure delivery--there is no "well you get what you pay for" attitude from Ethos. These numbers are based on our experience, what we think we need to do the job, and our desire to be affordable.

Tuition = (Ethos Base Fee - Family 2nd and 3rd sibling discounts) + Meal Costs + (Facility Costs/15)

(5) **Coaches/Parents:** Unless the Host requests a separate coaches and parents track, coaches and parents are free. "Coaches" who are eligible to debate in high school leagues are considered students for Ethos seminars, though they may perform functions of

coaching elsewhere.

(6) **Hosting:** One of the ways we reduce costs is to use host housing and homemade meals for our instructors, arranged for by the Seminar Host (again, consider some of our staff have allergies to pets). In return for organizing the seminar, the "Seminar Host" receives free tuition for students in his/her family.

(7) **Scholarships** may be discussed with us on an individual basis. We already provide a low cost seminar, but are happy to help out families who find that cost prohibitive. We ask that the Host provide requests

(8) **Intellectual Property** remains the sole property of Ethos, excepting what we give away. Bringing us to teach means we happily and openly teach what we know, answer every question we can, develop content on the spot for special requests, and even give out evidence from our Sourcebook, but students do not receive the entire Sourcebook or get to take home any files of our presentations (such as powerpoint files) beyond what notes they take at the seminar. Video recording must be arranged with us ahead of time. The basis include that our superior material is one thing that sets us apart and is our proprietary material upon which basis we can sustain hiring a star staff and providing teaching and that we do not want others copying our content, changing it slightly, and presenting it to others as "Ethos" content.

(9) **Age Requirements:** 13 – 18 Years.

Contact ethospubs@ethosdebate.com to schedule a seminar of your own!