



# ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

## Debate Academy 2022 - Oracy Coach Application Guide

*31 July - 6 August 2022  
Stamford Endowed Schools, PE9 2LL*

Debate Academy is an annual, week-long summer school in the United Kingdom dedicated to improving young people's debating skills. Working on the residential programme, Oracy Coaches are responsible for teaching debating to students, leading games and activities, and general safeguarding and pastoral duties.

### Job Description:

- Teach debating to a class of up to 24 students through a range of ESU lesson plans and activities
- Judge student practice debates and offer constructive feedback
- Deliver at least one hour long elective lesson on a specialist topic of your choice OR lead at least one chosen activity (e.g. Zumba, Legal Murder Mystery and 'Zine' making)
- Work with fellow Oracy Coaches to run evening group socials (e.g. Quiz night, Sports night and Film night)
- Carry out daily pastoral responsibilities such as breakfast duty, dinner duty and night duty etc.
- Supervise students and follow safeguarding and reporting procedures
- Provide support to the running of the camp: staffing registration desks, welcoming students, general pastoral care etc.
- Attend nightly staff meetings

## Person Specification:

### *Essential:*

- Be over 18 and legally have the right to work in the UK
- Must be available from Sunday 31 July - Saturday 6 August 2022
- Have debate coaching experience
- A commitment to safeguarding children and young people
- Have prior knowledge of at least one of the formats taught at Debate Academy (Schools' Mace, British Parliamentary and World Schools)

### *Desirable:*

- Have experience working with/teaching young people
- Have experience working at residential camps for young people
- Have experience delivering ESU programmes
- Have prior knowledge of at least two of the formats taught at Debate Academy (Schools' Mace, British Parliamentary and World Schools)

The rate of pay will be £525. Accommodation and food are provided for by the ESU. Travel expenses to and from the week are paid up to £80. All applicants will be expected to complete a DBS application and ESU safeguarding training.

**Deadline for applications is Sunday, 17 April.** Interviews will take place week commencing Monday, 2 May and successful candidates will be notified in early May. If you have any questions, please contact [mentors@esu.org](mailto:mentors@esu.org)

# A Day in the Life of an Oracy Coach

*Ameena Khan Sullivan, two-time Oracy Coach at Debate Academy, shares her experience and describes a typical day*

‘Being a part of Debate Academy is uniquely special. The programme fosters a culture of dialogue, and for many students it is the start of discovering their independent identity - challenging their beliefs and opinions. Debate Academy is a close-knit and connected environment, the role involves acting as a mentor in the truest sense; guiding young people in developing who they are as a person. Being a part of that, contributing to growth, is incredibly empowering as a coach.’



A day as an Oracy Coach at Debate Academy begins at around 7:15 with breakfast served in the dining hall from 7:45. Pastoral duties such as breakfast duty, dinner duty and evening duty are evenly distributed among Oracy Coaches throughout the week. On breakfast duty you're responsible for ensuring all the students in your boarding house are awake, have eaten breakfast and are ready for the day.

After breakfast, morning announcements begin at 8:30 every day in the main hall and are attended by all students and staff. This is when Oracy Coaches pitch the day's elective lessons and chosen activities and the students sign up to the ones that interest them.

Teaching begins at 9:05 and there are usually two or three Oracy Coaches assigned to each class of around twenty students. Typically, one or two mentors will deliver a lesson, and lessons are evenly distributed among Oracy Coaches. One of my favourite lessons to deliver was 'Choices and Rights for Debating' as it encouraged students to think more abstractly on the concept of human rights. Lessons are 45 minutes long and you are provided with detailed lesson plans, teaching resources and activity packs.

Morning lessons end at 11:20 when there is a break for students and staff. After break, the students participate in practice debates judged by the Oracy Coaches. This is definitely one of the most beneficial aspects of the camp for the students as they can receive individual feedback on their performance. After judging the morning debate, it is lunch time. If you are on lunch duty it is your responsibility to ensure that all students staying in your boarding house are present and eating enough to keep them going for the rest of the day. After lunch students will either

have more lessons or practice debates, meaning more teaching and judging for Oracy Coaches.

Teaching ends at 16:30 each day when students head to their chosen elective lesson. For my elective lesson I delivered an Introduction to Neuroscience, but Oracy Coaches run sessions on a whole host of topics such as the philosophy of democracy and the history of the LGBT movement.

Once the students have eaten their dinner, at 19:00 they head to their chosen activity. This is a non-debating related, social activity led by Oracy Coaches such as Zumba, Dungeons and Dragons and Zine making. As an Oracy Coach, you are not expected to deliver an elective lesson and a chosen activity every day, meaning you do get some free time in the evenings.

At 20:00 every evening there is a group social event ran by the Oracy Coaches that all students are expected to attend, some of these include Quiz night, Sports night and Film night. Once students have headed back to their boarding houses at 21:30, Oracy Coaches on night duty must sign students in and make sure lights are out by 22:30. Once all students are in bed, Oracy Coaches who are not on night duty attend a staff meeting for a debrief and to communicate key information for the following day.