

Special Talent Review for Speech and Debate

Submitting a special talent for review at Binghamton University is an opportunity for your talents to be actively considered in your admissions process. It is a chance to showcase your talents; **it does not affect your intended major**. However, the portfolio is intended for students who desire to pursue this interest in some way at Binghamton University.

All required materials must be received by **January 15th**. If you apply via Early Action, you will be reviewed academically first; if deferred, your file will be reviewed for Special Talent during the Regular Admission period.

About Speech & Debate:

- Binghamton University participates in two-person policy debate as sanctioned by the Cross-Examination Debate Association and the National Debate Tournament. Team members are expected to put in ten hours of meeting time per week with coaches in addition to outside preparation. Team members are also expected to travel to roughly five weekend-long tournaments a semester. They are also expected to show up to campus two weeks before the start of the first day of classes unless given permission otherwise. Housing will be provided. Team members are eligible for four credits and a grade each semester they compete on the team. However, it is substantially more work than any individual course. Prior policy debate experience is not required to be considered for special talent review in debate.
- Binghamton University also participates in Individual Events for speech competitions. Team members are expected to put in five hours of meeting time per week with coaches in addition to outside preparation. They are also expected to travel to roughly three weekend-long tournaments a semester. Prior competition in Individual Events at the high school level is required to be considered for special talent review in debate.

Requirements:

- If available, submit your win-loss record, major awards, seeding, and placements to prove your competitive success in any style of debate or speech events you participated.
- If proof of success is not available, complete the questionnaire below and all optional assignments as requested. This is not an available option for people wishing to be considered for a special talent review in speech.
- A letter of recommendation pertaining to your speaking or argumentative ability by a coach, high school teacher, or the advisor of an extra-curricular activity you participate in.

Submit all requirements, in one mailing, to:

Special Talent Review – DEBATE
Joseph Leeson-Schatz
English, General Literature & Rhetoric
PO Box 6000
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000

Only materials meeting these specific requirements will be reviewed. If you have previously sent a sample of your work to a department other than the one listed above or missing required information, please resubmit your portfolio with requirements listed above.

Questionnaire & Assignments

For those interested in a special talent review in debate ONLY. Optional for those with proof of competitive success. Mandatory for those who don't. Do NOT use more than 200 words answering any individual question.

- 1) Why do you want to be involved in debate in college?
- 2) What qualities do you have that make you think you would be successful in debate?
- 3) Construct an argument for why economic decline in the United States would result in war. Feel free to cite sources or analytically explain why this may be the case.
- 4) Construct an argument for why #2 is incorrect. Feel free to cite sources or analytically explain why this may be the case
- 5) What philosophers are you familiar with?
- 6) Construct an argument for why morality should come before utilitarian concerns? Feel free to cite sources or analytically explain why this may be the case.
- 7) What is your familiarity with any or all of the follow: Lexis-Nexis, Project Muse, Google Scholar?
- 8) What kinds of debate have you watched and/or what do you expect debate to look like in college?
- 9) How much time would you plan on devoting to debate weekly outside of required team meetings?
- 10) Do you think strategy in debate is more important than style? Explain why or why not.