

For information, call (314) 935-5230 or visit debate.wustl.edu.

Story Ideas

Prepared for media covering the presidential debate Oct. 17, 2000.

Students find themselves on all sides of the debate

- Diverse activities provide good experience.

Student debate team members have their own perspective.

Contact: Jennifer Rigdon, director of debate and forensics, (314) 935-7199; rigdon@dosa.wustl.edu. For information on debate team members, visit debate.wustl.edu. To arrange to cover the team's DebateWatch session, please call Ann Nicholson at (314) 935-5251 or beeper (314) 559-4801.

When members of the University's undergraduate debate team sit down together to watch the presidential debate as part of DebateWatch on Oct. 17, they'll be looking with a keen eye at the debate strategies and skills of the two candidates. After all, as a nationally recognized team, they know something about the preparation necessary for a debate, as well as the pitfalls a debater can fall into. They also know the differences between their debate competitions and the presidential debate.

Jennifer Rigdon, team coach, says the debate skills that students hone for competitions are very transferable, aiding students in the classroom and throughout their lives. "They learn to love information-gathering," she says, "and, if these are the students who go on to be our politicians or other leaders, they have a really good foundation.

"Americans can revel in the right to free speech. Here, we are able to disagree, protest, debate and finally vote for—or against—issues and candidates. Everyone should take advantage of political debates as an opportunity to participate in the democratic process in action."

Students can watch, react to debate on big screens.

Contact: Barbara Rea, director of major events and special projects, (314) 935-5297, or mobile phone (314) 703-8055

Much like a championship game, the final presidential debate is an event to be shared. University students, as well as faculty and staff, will have six remote viewing sites featuring big-screen viewing. Three of the sites will be available to media, and opportunities to interview students are possible by calling Barbara Rea for assistance.

Students with political expertise offer wide range of opinions, perspectives.

For information on students available, see the "Students Available for Interviews" list, or visit debate.wustl.edu.

If you'd like to hear the perspective of campus leaders in groups such as the Sierra Student Coalition, Students for Choice, Students for Life, Campus Republicans, College Democrats, Conservative Leadership Association, the Socialist Forum,

Association of Latin American Students, Association of Black Students, Association of Korean Students, the Student Union, Interfraternity Council, and others, feel free to contact students directly.

Student Union and other student groups have tried to make the most of the opportunity the debate presents, scheduling voter-registration drives, debates, discussions and lectures to engage young voters. A complete listing of Student Union-sponsored events is available online (su.wustl.edu).

Student volunteers help with all aspects of debate.

Contact: Alisa Schneider, manager of employer relations, Career Center, (314) 935-8229, aschneid@artsci.wustl.edu

More than 600 students volunteered to help with the debate—to work with the Commission on Presidential Debates office, to answer information lines for DebateWatch, to help the media credentialing team, to assist media inside the venue, and much more. Approximately 150 students received assignments. “For most, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be closely involved with an historical political event,” Schneider says, “and our students are eager to be part of it.”

Art students develop debate graphics.

Contact: Laura Eisenbach-Bush, lecturer in art, (314) 935-8402, leisenba@art.wustl.edu
Mary Ellen Benson, assistant vice chancellor, executive director of publications, (314) 935-5263, mbenson@aismail.wustl.edu

Almost anywhere you look around the debate site at Washington University, you can see the handiwork of the University’s art students. Last spring, two art majors in Create Studio, a student intern experience for visual communications majors, began developing graphics for the debate. Christine Miller and Rebecca Goldstein, both B.F.A.’00, created the basic debate logo. Then other students, working as interns in publications, used it in designs for varied pieces. Keri McWilliams, B.F.A.’01, created the T-shirt design and helped with the Web-site design. Julie Conway, B.F.A.’00, created the street-banner design. Samantha Rayman, B.F.A.’02, created the poster, for sale at the Campus Store. Kendra Gerstein, B.F.A. ’03, created the design silk-screened on the backs of the 800 nylon chairs ordered for the debate. For all, it was an extraordinary learning experience that could produce outstanding additions to their portfolios.

Students and others in community participate in DebateWatch

- Program encourages watching, discussing debates.

Results of anonymous questionnaires available soon after debates.

Contact: Ann Nicholson, senior news editor, (314) 935-5251, or beeper (314) 559-4801

DebateWatch 2000 is an opportunity for everyone to become actively involved with the 2000 debates by forming small groups of about a dozen or so, watching the debates together on television, and then discussing the debates and reporting both what they learned and how the debates will affect the choices they make in the November election. DebateWatchers do not pick a winner or loser, but rather focus on the issues involved in the debates. Participants in DebateWatch, sponsored by the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates, will have

the chance to make their views known not only in their discussion groups, but also by answering a brief one-page survey about the issues addressed and the overall helpfulness of the debates to voters. The results of the anonymous questionnaires will be provided to the Commission, the news media and the candidates within a few days of each debate.

Washington University's award-winning undergraduate student debate team and their coach, Jennifer Rigdon, will host a DebateWatch group on campus. Many other DebateWatch groups will be meeting in the St. Louis metropolitan area, for which Washington University serves as DebateWatch coordinator.

Faculty members, staff offer political expertise

- Those in political science, law, business, social work and other fields, provide interesting insights.

Twenty-four are available for interviews on current issues.

For information on faculty and staff available, see the "Political Experts" list, or visit debate.wustl.edu.

If you're looking for expert sources on American politics, including political speeches and debates; the politics of regulatory reform; the politics of business/economics; the Supreme Court; environmental policy; social policy; unions/labor; foreign relations/immigration; religion and politics; and debate strategies and techniques, please feel free to contact the sources listed.

Hosting a debate involves much behind-the-scenes work

- Many, such as carpenters, telecommunications workers, and managers, play leading roles.

Event poses major logistical challenges.

Contact: Steve Givens, assistant to the Chancellor, (314) 935-5127, sjgivens.wustl.edu
M. Fredric Volkmann, vice chancellor for public affairs, (314) 935-5476, volkmann.wustl.edu

When you're expecting two presidential candidates as guests, it takes much planning to conform to Secret Service requirements; to prepare facilities; to provide equipment, space and information for some 1,500 media representatives; to accommodate political demonstrations; to provide parking and handle traffic congestion; and meet many other challenges.

One challenge is providing space for candidates, and for this debate in the University's Athletic Complex, offices of coaches for the University, fielding top national teams, will become preparation rooms for the candidates.

Anheuser-Busch Cos. sponsors this and all debates under the auspices of the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates, and other contributors include Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.

Related events offer interesting angles

- Related debates, forums, exhibits cover array of political subjects.

Top Bush, Gore economists participate in “pre-debate debate.”

Contact: Robert Batterson, communications manager and co-program manager for international research, Washington University’s Center for the Study of American Business, (314) 935-5676

Top economic advisors to presidential candidates Gov. George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore will square off for a pre-debate debate on the merits of the candidates’ economic plans from 8 to 9 a.m. on Oct. 17 in Simon Hall’s May Auditorium at the John M. Olin School of Business.

The debate will feature Lawrence Lindsey, Bush’s top economic adviser and former Federal Reserve Board governor, and Gene Sperling, Gore’s top economic adviser, assistant to the president for economic policy and director of the National Economic Council. John Berry, economics columnist for the Washington Post will moderate the debate.

Briefing offered for foreign journalists.

Contact: Gerry Everding, director of news and electronic communication, (314) 935-6375

About 40 foreign journalists will be offered background on the American election process and other political issues likely to be raised in the 200 political campaigns during a special briefing and reception sponsored by Washington University from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Oct. 17, in Room 300 of Brookings Hall. James Davis, Ph.D., professor of political science, will present American political issues; Henry Berger, Ph.D., associate professor of history, will present U.S. foreign policy issues; and Andrew Sobel, Ph.D., associate professor of political science, will moderate questions and answers. Afterwards, a reception will allow the journalists to interact with several groups of Washington University students from the journalists’ home countries and students from several American Politics classes at the University. The journalists are covering the presidential debate and other events on campus as part of a tour organized by the U.S. State Department’s Foreign Press Center in Washington, D.C.

American Presidents Portrait Exhibit is being installed in Athletic Complex.

Contact: Ed Aymar, marketing representative, C-SPAN, (202) 626-7975
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The American Presidents Portrait Exhibit, a nationally touring project that brings the 41 presidents to life through oil portraits, images and historic biographical sketches, will be on public display at Washington University in St. Louis through Oct. 23. Curators will begin installing the exhibit, a joint effort of the C-SPAN public affairs cable channel and the White House Historical Association, on Friday, Oct. 13. This project, featuring oil portraits by Chas Fagan, renowned portraitist, landscape painter and sculptor, is a spin-off from C-SPAN’s Peabody Award-winning cable series titled “American Presidents: Life Portraits.” For more information, visit <http://www.americanpresidents.org/>

Editorial cartoon exhibit shows social justice and political issues

Contact: Ann Nicholson, senior news editor, (314) 935-5251, or beeper
(314) 559-4801

Editorial cartoons published in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and representing social work and political issues of each of the past 75 years will be exhibited 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday through Dec. 15 in the library of Brown Hall, home of Washington University's George Warren Brown School of Social Work. Called "Advocates for Change: 75 Years of Journalism and Social Work," the exhibit celebrates the school's 75th anniversary and is comprised of work by four cartoon artists: Daniel Fitzpatrick, Bill Mauldin, Tom Engelhardt and John Sherffius, the current cartoonist. Some of the images deal with issues such as Prohibition that have long since faded into history, while others focus on issues still fresh in today's headlines. The exhibition provides a stroboscopic retrospective of the important topics that have energized political and social thought over most of the past century.

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