

# Discourse (Junior) *The intensive Toronto summer debate workshop.*

**Location and Time:** Larkin Building (15 Devonshire Place) at Trinity College in the University of Toronto from August 18th to 22nd, 2014 from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM daily.

**Who:** Students entering Gr. 6-8 in Sept. 2014. Taught by two-time World Individual Public Speaking and Debating Champion and independent debate coach Shakir Rahim (see pg. 2).

**Registration:** Registration is \$495 per student. Please mail a completed registration form (pg. 3) liability waiver (pg. 4), and \$250 cheque deposit to the address on the form. Spots will be reserved on a first-come first-served basis and are limited to 16 students.

**Contact Information:** Via telephone at (647) 339-8293 or e-mail at [szrahim@gmail.com](mailto:szrahim@gmail.com).

## **Mission**

Launched in 2010, the mission of Discourse is to prepare students for debate and teach them valuable argumentation and communication skills that will last a lifetime. Discourse (Junior) is suitable for students at all skills levels and is designed to maximize individual attention and an interactive atmosphere. The week will be a blend of instruction and practice, providing students the opportunity to learn and receive feedback on their skills in order to be prepared for the 2014-2015 season.

## **Instruction**

The workshop will focus on three main components: argumentation, content, and delivery. There will be modules on each these sections and the relationship between them. Discourse will integrate age-appropriate seminars, individual and group exercises, and practice debates in multiple styles to develop and strengthen skills. The topics that will be covered are:

### Argumentation

- What are the basic concepts in a debate?
  - Topics: the definition; plan and counter-plans; arguments; direct refutation—points of information (POIs) vs. cross-examination.
- How do you form an argument?
  - Topics: assertion, reasoning, and evidence.
- What are the roles of each speaker in a debate?
  - Topics: order and responsibilities of each speaker in a debate; the structure of a speech—e.g. division between refutation and argumentation and signposting.
- How do you refute an argument?

### Content

- How do you think of content in an impromptu debate?
  - Topics: different angles to think about a resolution; the importance of reasoning in the impromptu style.
- How do you preform basic research for a prepared debate?
  - Topics: research methods and sources; instruction on basic political, social, and economic issues.
- How do you create content that appeals to broad audience?

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## Delivery

- How do you differentiate your vocal presentation during a speech?
  - Topics: pace, volume, and emphasis.
- What are other ways to enhance delivery with your physical presence?
  - Topics: gesture, eye contact, and posture.

## **Coach**

Shakir Rahim is an independent debate coach who works with the University of Toronto Schools (UTS), St. Andrew's College (SAC), and private students. He was a debate coach at Branksome Hall School from 2008-2013. In his high school career, Shakir won the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships twice and attended four times. He has been profiled by the *National Post*, *CBC Radio*, *The Vancouver Sun*, *Vancouver Magazine*, and *Breakfast Television* for his achievements. His other titles included: International Independent Schools Debate Champion, member of Team Canada to the Pan-American Debate Championships, Canadian Public Speaking Champion, Canadian Junior National Debating Champion, and five-time BC Debating Champion. In 2013, Shakir completed a project Queenstown, South Africa where he instructed public speaking and debate at the Queenstown Get Ahead Project School (QGAP) under the aegis of the Toronto-based Leacock Foundation.

Shakir's students have attended and won the World Individual Public Speaking and Debating Championships, the International Independent Schools Public Speaking Championships, the Senior and Junior Ontario Debate Championships, and been selected for the Canadian team to the World Schools Debate Championships. At the University of Toronto, Shakir served as a member of the Academic Board of the U of T Governing Council and Vice-President of the Association of Political Science Students. He also sits on the Board of Directors of the Canadian International Council Toronto Branch, a foreign affairs NGO. He was a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013.

## **Timing**

Students should be dropped off at 10 am and picked up at 4:30 pm from the Larkin Building. Students will be escorted to Hazelton Lanes Mall for lunch, approximately a ten-minute walk, where they may bring their own lunch or purchase food from Whole Foods or another establishment. Students will be supervised at all times. Please see the schedule below for further information.

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## Schedule

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>10:00-11:00</b>	Introduction	<i>Content:</i> Canadian Politics	<i>Content:</i> American Politics	<i>Content:</i> Social Issues	<i>Content:</i> International Issues
<b>11:00-12:00</b>	<i>Argumentation:</i> Basic Concepts (I)	<i>Argumentation:</i> Speaker Roles (I)	<i>Content:</i> Impromptu Debate Strategies	<i>Delivery:</i> Physical Presence and Skill-Building	General Q&A
<b>12:00-1:00</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<b>1:00-1:30</b>	<i>Argumentation:</i> Basic Concepts (II)	Impromptu Debate Preparation	Impromptu Debate Preparation	<i>Argumentation:</i> Refuting Arguments (II)	<i>Argumentation:</i> Refuting Arguments (II)
<b>1:30-2:30</b>	<i>Argumentation:</i> Building Arguments (I)	Impromptu CNDF Debate	Impromptu Cross- Ex Debate	Prepared CNDF Debate	Flexible Time
<b>2:30-3:30</b>	<i>Delivery:</i> Vocal Presentation	Debate Analysis	Debate Analysis	Debate Analysis	Impromptu CNDF Debate
<b>3:30-4:00</b>	<i>Argumentation:</i> Refuting Arguments (I)	<i>Argumentation:</i> Speaker Roles (II)	<i>Content:</i> Basic Research Strategies	Prepared Cross-Ex Debate	Debate Analysis
<b>4:00-4:30</b>	Trivia Game	Trivia Game	Trivia Game	Trivia Game	Trivia Game

*Registration form on next page.*

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## Registration Form

Please mail the form, waiver, and a \$250 cheque deposit payable to “Shakir Rahim” to the following address:

8 Dovercourt Road Apt. 604  
Toronto, ON M6J 3C2

The remaining \$245 may be paid on the first day of the workshop.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade in September 2014:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Tel.:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Emergency Tel.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list tournaments you have participated in and your rankings. You may attach an additional sheet if necessary.**

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**Please indicate what you feel your debate strengths and weaknesses are.**

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## Liability Release Waiver

The undersigned (the participant or the legal guardian, if the former is less than 18 years of age) agrees to refrain from suing Discourse Workshop and discharges Discourse Workshop's officers, agents and employees from all liability arising out of the participation of the student in the workshop. The undersigned agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Discourse Workshop for any loss or damage that the student may incur due to participating in the workshop. The undersigned certifies that in the event of any accident or sudden illness, Discourse Workshop has the undersigned's permission to administer the necessary medical emergency treatment.

_____	_____	_____
Name of Participant	Signature of Participant	Date

_____	_____	_____
Name of Parent/Guardian	Signature of Parent/Guardian	Date