

# Middlebury Parliamentary Debate Society Constitution

- Article I**     Name: The name of this organization shall be the Middlebury Parliamentary Debate Society.
- Article II**     Purpose: The purpose of this organization is as follows:
1. To allow members to compete in intercollegiate parliamentary debate tournaments.
  2. To educate and develop the skills required to compete and succeed in parliamentary debate.
  3. To encourage debate and discussion about important issues on campus, through such means as public debates and debates at weekly meetings.
  4. To contribute to the richness of the international debate community by hosting an annual tournament.
- Article III**     Membership: Membership is open to all Middlebury College students.
- Article IV**     Officers: *(all officers must be Middlebury College students)*  
President: *The president is the representative of the society in the greater college community, and is responsible for overseeing club operations.*  
Vice-President: *The Vice-President assists the President in overseeing the organization*  
Secretary: *The Secretary is responsible for communicating with the club membership and planning and organizing trips to tournaments.*  
Treasurer: *The Treasurer manages team finances and is the liaison between the organization and the SGA Finance Committee, and is responsible for annual budgeting.*
- Article V**     Elections: Elections will be held in the Spring of each year by March 15<sup>th</sup>. A majority vote of a quorum of two thirds of the membership is required for election to an office.
- Article VI**     Meetings: Meetings will be held once a week. We will discuss logistical issues, including tournament attendance, which will be followed by practice debate rounds.
- Article VII**     Committees: No committees currently exist, but the Vice President has the power to create committees, should the need arise.
- Article VIII**     Faculty Advisor: The membership recommends a member of the faculty/staff to advise the organization.
- Article IX**     Affiliations: The Middlebury Parliamentary Debate Society is affiliated with the American Parliamentary Debate Association.
- Article X**     Discrimination Policy: This student organization operates in full accordance with Chapter IV, Section II, A of the Middlebury College Handbook concerning student organization policies of discrimination, freedom of association, anti-hazing, freedom of inquiry and expression, student publication, funding, advertising, and scheduling. Any changes made to the student organization policies section of the Middlebury College

Handbook will immediately become policies of the Middlebury Parliamentary Debate Society.

**Article XI**    Ratification:

- A. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- B. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

**Article XII**    Amendment

- A. The constitution must be amended by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- B. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

Beginning date for establishing Forensics at Middlebury is not known. There was a Freshman Debating Society established by the class of 1916. (1920-1915) Other dates are not exact. This is the first constitution that delineates a constitution for Parliamentary Debate.

Approved as to edits: April 27, 2004