



JULY 2020

ASAP

AFTER
Activities

SCHOOL
Partnerships

Dear Friends,

Did you know this summer one of ASAP's senior debaters Akayla from Bodine High School will be competing at the prestigious **National Symposium for Debate (NSD) summer camp**? She will be representing Philadelphia, competing against the very best debate students in the country! Akayla earned this experience through a scholarship provided by ASAP's longtime partner Penn For Youth Debate in recognition of her distinguished performance in **ASAP's Philadelphia Scholastic Debate League**.

Akayla's road to the NSD camp began in 7th grade when her teacher at Lab Charter recommended she join her school's ASAP Debate team. She picked up debate (and winning) really quickly: **"In my first ever debate tournament, my partner and I won 2 out of 3 rounds. I was so happy."** -Akayla, 12th Grade, Bodine High School

While many first-timers are intimidated by the prospect of facing seasoned debate league opponents, Akayla wanted to be the best and she knew the only way to do that was to compete against the best. **"I always wanted to compete against Mykere, because I knew he was a good debater."** -Akayla, ASAP Debate

Fast forward a couple years, now Akayla and Mykere are debate partners at Bodine High School competing in ASAP's Philadelphia Scholastic Debate League. So who's the better competitor now? **"The better debater never got decided because we became partners in high school!"** -Akayla, ASAP Debate

Akayla and Mykere have spent years preparing and challenging themselves through every scenario in order to compete at the national level. In fact, one of Akayla's favorite debate memories was when she advanced to the final round of the national qualifiers at Pennsbury High School...and lost. **"I felt like everything was on the line. I debated like there was no tomorrow."** -Akayla, ASAP Debate

To this day, that loss fuels her motivation: **"Getting so close to winning, made me feel like...this senior year, when I can come back, I'm going to come back 10 times stronger."** -Akayla, ASAP Debate

We know that Akayla's drive will ultimately lead her to victory this summer at the NSD Camp and we wish her nothing but the best! And while she mixes it up with her peers from across the country, ASAP will hold it down in Philadelphia this July with our annual Summer Debate Academy—only this year it's virtual! This two-week, free camp will engage middle and high school novice debaters through "original oratory," a style where students choose an original topic and present their speech to judges. But the same debate rules still apply—facts only!!

If you are encouraged by what you have read in this newsletter, we hope you consider making a donation today to support Akayla and students alike through summer enrichment opportunities that help us keep kids engaged, enriched, and inspired all summer long. You can support by donating online (www.phillyasap.org/donate) or by check payable to ASAP. And don't forget, thanks to the generosity of ASAP's steadfast partners at Townsend Press, donations made this summer will be matched up to \$25,000!!

We thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Justin Ennis
Executive director

Wendy Glazer
Board Chair