**PRACTICE - I**

BOD Y LANGUAGE

When you move confidently and carry your body confidently, you not only feel more confident but others assume that you are. You transmit only 7% of information through the language you use. 35% depends on how you speak - quality of voice, accent, voice projection, emphasis, expression, pace volume, pitch etc. The remaining major portion of information upto 55% comes from your body language- posture, position, eye contact, facial expressions, head and body movements, gestures, touch etc. This means to say 93% of what you want to say is not uttered in words but emitted from your speech habits, body language and postures.

Hand and harm movements are very expressive. Learn to use your hands for emphasis, and keep hand movements smooth and flowing. If you fold your arms, wrap them around your self that indicates a closed and unapproachable attitude.

Placing your hands in pockets, tapping on surface such has table and desks with fingers or on the back of your other hand, fidgeting, scratching and wringing your hands, touching your face or neck must be avoided.

Our eyes are very expressive. Looking away shows disinterest while looking down convinces submission. Confident people make more frequent eye contact than people who are unsure of themselves.

Slow breathe, study gaze, and relaxed mind makes you combat nervousness. Try to make the better use of your personal space.

The state of confidence is one of the easiest states to recognize. Standing with your hands behind your back, clasping the hands in front of the stomach, and keeping the finger tips touching each other show your state of over confidence. Avoid these postures of over confidence.

Stand upright and walk with wide steps. Having the arms and legs crossed shows a defensive position. If your words force others to take defensive position, apologize to them. When someone takes a posture of confusion then slow down your pace or elaborate more.

When a negative situation happens, the blood capillaries in our nose contract and we, thus feel like scratching it. Scratching the back of your head or rubbing your neck from behind, rubbing your face with fingers, tapping your hands on your lap, shaking your foot repeatedly in a nervous manner are clear signs of frustration. These must be avoided.

The state of being interested in someone or some topic is one of the major states of body language. There are certain concepts like private distance, orientation, eye contact on which the state of interest is built upon. If you find someone to be leaving small private distance between you and him, properly oriented and establishing good eye contact, then that means he is interested in the conversation. This we experience when we talk with close friends and people whom you have just known for a few days.

The presence of three or more following signs shows that this person is anxious.

1. Finger nail biting
2. Fidgeting ( frequent changes of position )
3. Tapping your heel on the floor and fingers or hand on your lap.
4. Sweating
5. Jiggling whatever in your pocket.
6. Whistling

So, you have to avoid all the above things. When someone feels bored, he starts playing with something and moves his foot up and down showing his nervousness. In such a case you have to change the subject or add more humor to what you are saying.

You can detect a liar through his body language as well as Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) Eye Accessing Clues. Touching ones nose or ears is a clue to negative evaluation postures. Eye contact very much weakens when someone is lying. While telling a lie, the person may keep on looking at other stuff around him. A liar rarely keeps his palms visible. He usually either puts them down or keeps them in his pocket. He rarely keeps his back upright.

To succeed in an interview, you have to leave a positive impression. Interviewer takes about five to ten seconds to form an impression of someone and then he takes ten minutes to confirm his judgment. Proper eye contact during this time shows respect, interest and that you are not shy.

Another important thing that happens in the first few seconds is the hand shake. When the palm is parallel and facing the floor it reflects the desired to dominate. When the palm is facing the sky, it represents a state of submission. Simply by holding other’s palm firmly return it to the vertical position. You can send a small message to his sub-consciousness that “Sorry, but I’m not the kind of person whom you can control”. A firm hand shake leaves the impression that you are more confident than he is. A firm hand shake combined with proper eye contact leaves the impression that you are a confident person.

A smile on your face adds grace to your stature and improves your level of confidence.

Sit with your back straight and shoulders stretched. It gives an impression that you are confident, happy or interested.

Crossing your legs or holding your arms when sitting leaves a bad impression.

Don’t place an object like a bag or a file between you and the interviewer because it leaves a very bad impression.

The color of the clothes you wear sends signals about you. In the psychology of colours blue gives the impression of loyalty and honesty. So wear clothes according to season and situation.

What is great about your body language is that it can be used to change emotions.

You can fool others but you cannot fool your sub consciousness. Even people, who have mastered body language, may have small slips which are called micro gestures. These micro gestures can be a slight movement in the lips, eyebrows or facial muscles.

Maintaining proper eye contact during a conversation is very essential to make a good impression. While 100% eye contact makes the other person comfortable, 70% to 80% eye contact is desirable. If you are not able to look others in the eye, try to just look at the positive area of eye contact. If you want to give someone an order, look just above the positive area of the face. It gives an impression that you are leading the situation.

Touching the nose or scratching the nose is called “the negative evaluation gestures’ and it means that he did not like what he just heard.

Rubbing the eye brows or pushing the glasses back in space is positive evaluation gestures.

Folding the arms and crossing the legs indicates defensive position generally taken when a person becomes offended and when is not comfortable.

Tilted head means that the person is interested in what is listening to. If somebody is not facing you directly, then he may want to leave or move or he may be in hurry. If one hides his mouth with his hands that means he either wants to comment what you are saying or quite convinced by what you are saying.

Rapport building is making the other person feel that there is something common between you and the listener or to make him feel that he knows you since a long period. This will be developed in the subconscious mind. It can be achieved by mimicking gestures, and voice tone, tempo and some aspects of his body language. Then you can establish a good rapport with a new person.

Italians keep small private distance while English people may keep a big distance. We have to interpret the private distance by taking consideration of the cultural differences.

Body language is perspective dependant. It detects states of feelings and not personality. So we have to filter out our bad habits like folding arms or putting our hands in pockets.

When you feel afraid, your subconscious mind tries to find a way to protect you. In case of any fear you slow down and in case of confidence you take wide and sure steps towards your destination.

Suppose you want to appear confident, just stand upright with your back upright, clasp your hands in front of your stomach and raise your head a little. Every one will believe you are confident, even if you are really not.

If you take certain postures, you will soon experience the emotion associated with that posture. For example, a few seconds after taking the posture of confident, you will stand feeling very confident.

The radius of the air bubble around suburban middle class white people living in Australia, New Zealand, England, North America and Canada is generally the same. It can be broken down into four distinct zone distances.

* **Intimate Zone (between 15 and 45 centimeters or 6 to 18 inches)** - Of all the zone distances, this is by far the most important as it is this zone that a person guards as if it were his own property. Only those who are emotionally close to that person are permitted to enter it. This includes lovers, parents, spouse, children, close friends and relatives. There is a sub-zone that extends up to 15 centimeters (6 inches) from the body that can be entered only during physical contact. This is the close intimate zone.
* **Personal Zone (between 46 centimeters and 1.22 meters or 18 to 48 inches)**- This is the distance that we stand from others at cocktail parties, office parties, social functions and friendly gatherings.
* **Social Zone (between 1.22 and 3.6 meters or 4 to 12 feet)** - We stand at this distance from strangers, the plumber or carpenter doing repairs around our home, the postman, the local shopkeeper, the new employee at work and people whom we do not know very well.
* **Public Zone (over 3.6 meters or 12 feet)** - Whenever we address a large group of people, this is the comfortable distance at which we choose to stand.

**PRACTICE – II**

**DIALOGUES**

This unit is a collection of dialogues. These dialogues are meant to provide you with an approximate idea of how to carry on a dialogue in some situations both formal and informal. Obviously, it is humanly not possible to cover every imaginable situation. But practice does help and that is dialogues intend to lead up to.

Follow the

Five steps outlined below as you go through each dialogue.

1: First time round, listen to the dialogue without referring to the book.

2: Listen to the dialogue again a second time, but follow the transcribed dialogue in the book.

3: Use the phrases are provided in the vocabulary section by making sentences of your own.

4: Pay attention to the comments that are provided in the descriptive function paragraph of each dialogue.

5: Each dialogue has a section titled exercise. Please pair up with a partner in your class and slowly work out the exercise.

**Listen to the following dialogue between two strangers**

Anshu : Excuse me sir

Passerby : Hello!

Anshu : I am new to this town, can you please guide me to Danush

Engineering Company?

Passerby : Oh yes! It's not very far from here. Are on foot? Oh, no, I see you

Have a scooter.

Anshu : Yes, that is my scooter.

Passerby : All right then. Go straight till you came to the red, two storied Building, then

take left and Danush Engineering is the second Building on the right.It is painted a bright green and it has a Watchman at the entrance.

Anshu : Oh thank you very much sir!

Passerby : You are welcome ... are you here for an interview? I hear they are

looking for some people.

Anshu : Yes. There is an interview at 10 o' clock and I have come for that.

I have applied for the post of a Marketing Manager.

Passerby : I see. The company is doing well and all of us in this town are

Proud of it. Let me wish you all the very best in your interview, young

Man.....

Anshu : Thank you sir, with your blessings I hope to do well

**INTRODUCING ONESELF**

When you introduce yourself, don’t stop after just providing your name; give a little more information about yourself or the person that you are introducing. The extra information you provide should be relevant. For example, in an office situation, after mentioning her\his name you can say that s\he was the college topper. In an informal situation after mentioning the person’s name you’d say that s\he is a good singer, or a good cook, or has an unusual hobby like rock-climbing!

**SMALL TALK**

**IN THE COLLEGE CANTEEN**

Praveen : HI there.

Karim : Hi. I haven't seen you around here before.

Praveen : No, I've only been here a few months. I’m doing first year MBA.

Karim : Oh.I is studying second year B.Tech.

Praveen : Would you like to have a coffee?

Karim : Sorry! I have just had. I've a class now.

Praveen : its ok .We can have it another time.

**AT THE BANK**

Christoper : Lovely day today. Isn’t it?

John : Yeah. The sky is very clear. I love this time of the year.

Christoper : Me too. It is neither very hot nor very cold.

John : Yes. But the weatherman predicts a rain for next four days.

Christoper : Really? That's my number at the counter.

John : Bye...

**AT THE BUS STOP**

Simon : Ah, this bus seems to be running late. How long of wait is it

Already?

Venkat : I've been here for at least half an hour now.

Simon : I hope the drivers aren't on strike again.

Venkat : Me too. It was terrible last week. I couldn't do any work.

Simon : You are right. Even I wasn't able to. My office is 15 kms away and there

Is no other way to reach it.

Venkat : Um...

Simon : Here comes a bus now.

Venkat : Oh great. I thought it would never come. Well, have a nice day.

**PRACTICE - 3**

# **PRESENTATION SKILLS**

# 

**Presenting information** clearly and effectively is a key skill to get your message or opinion across and, today, **presentation skills** are required in almost every field.    
  
Whether you are a student, administrator or executive, if you wish to start up your own business, apply for a grant or stand for an elected position, you may very well be asked to make that dreaded presentation.   
    
 If, in this position, the first thing you do is open up PowerPoint, then you should probably first spend some time developing your presentation skills.  Delivering an **inspirational** or **captivating presentation** requires a lot of preparation and work, and you may not even need PowerPoint at all!

Many people feel terrified when asked to make their first public talk, but these initial fears can be reduced by good preparation which will also lay the groundwork for making an effective presentation.

The formal presentation of information is divided into two broad categories: **Presentation Skills** and **Personal Presentation**.  These two aspects are interwoven and can be described as the preparation, presentation and practice of verbal and non-verbal communication.  This article is an overview of how to prepare and structure a presentation, and how to manage notes and/or illustrations at any speaking event.

Many people feel terrified when asked to make their first public talk.  Some of these initial fears can be reduced by good preparation which will also lay the groundwork for making an effective presentation.

## [What is a Presentation?](http://www.skillsyouneed.co.uk/Present/what_is_a_presentation.html)

A presentation is a means of communication which can be adapted to various speaking situations, such as talking to a group, addressing a meeting or briefing a team. To be effective, step-by-step preparation and the method and means of presenting the information should be carefully considered.

## [Preparing a Presentation](http://www.skillsyouneed.co.uk/Present/preparing_your_presentation.html)

Preparation is the most important part of making a successful presentation.  This is the crucial foundation and there should be no short-cuts.

## [Organising the Material](http://www.skillsyouneed.co.uk/Present/organising_your_material.html)

Irrespective of whether the occasion is formal or informal, always aim to give a clear, well-structured delivery.  You should know exactly what you want to say and the order in which you want to say it.  Clarity of ideas and good organization should result in a lively, logical and compelling message.

## [Writing Your Presentation](http://www.skillsyouneed.co.uk/Present/writing_your_presentation.html)

This article offers advice on how to write an effective presentation.   Before you write your presentation, you should already have started to prepare by developing your ideas and selecting the main points to include.

## [Deciding the Presentation Method](http://www.skillsyouneed.co.uk/Present/decide_the_presentation_method.html)

Few people are able to give a presentation without notes. You will need to know your own abilities and decide how best to make the presentation. You might manage your talk by using full text, notes on cue cards, keywords on cue cards, or mind maps

.**Dressing for Success**

Arthur Ashe once said, *"Clothes and manners do not make the man; but when he is made, they greatly improve his appearance."* And true are his words in the corporate world. In order to make an impression you need to be able to deliver goods but the right attitude and image play an important role when you finally do deliver! It’s like icing on the cake!

**PRACTICE - IV**

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

Group discussion (GD) in simple words means discussion among a group of people. GDs are now increasingly being used by corporate and institutions for selection of candidate for employment or admission. The question before us, therefore, is: How does one sail through GD and come out with flying colours?

A group discussion is not something which is totally different form routine friendly discussions which daily take place between friends, colleagues and class-fellows, requiring one to acquire a completely different set of skills. All of us are continuously involved in informal discussion with one group of people or the other. The general rules of such discussions that apply to a formal group discussion are also used in the selection of candidates for various assignments.

**Types of GD**  
  
When you hear the term Group Discussion, the image that comes to your mind is a group of 10 to 12 students seated in a circular or semicircular arrangement and involved in serious discussion. Not all the GDs are same. The topics can be on diverse topics. The common types of topics are Factual, Abstract and Case Study.   
  
While factual is based on the topics of current and controversial topics. For this, you need to be up with your IQ and current affairs. The topics can be anything from the Politics, Business; Sports etc.   
The abstract topics involve lateral thinking and unconventional perspectives. As the name suggests, these topics can be open to any perception. You can drive the topic towards any direction according to your convenience. Some such topics include ‘Deep Blue is not blue enough’, ‘Be an idiot’, etc.   
  
In the Case Study based GDs, you will be given a case let on a business, economic or political scenario. The question which is dealt at the end of the discussion is posed from the point of view of the stakeholders.

**Methods to prepare**  
As the experts opine, the preparation for GD is not a matter of few days. It is a continuous process. The following points will help you prepare for the GD in the remaining days to your GD at a top B-School.  
**Brush up your GK & Current Affairs**  
The best method to update your knowledge on current affairs is to read, watch and listen. Read the newspapers and magazines on current issues, specially the year-end issues that capture the highlights of the year gone by. Also watch and listen to the news and current affair programmes on news channels.  
Dr. A M Sherry, Admission Chairperson, IMT Group of Institutes mentions, “Just reading newspaper or watching news on the day of your GD will not be good enough. You must know the background of all the ongoing happenings to contribute fruitfully in the GD.”  
**Work on your voice**   
Your voice is your biggest strength in a GD. You have to modulate in the right way. You should not be too loud, nor should your voice go too soft. Practice on the throw of your voice and know the techniques of controlling. For example, if you are starting the GD, your voice should be louder than usual as many people would like to start the GD. When you see that everyone is listening to you, you should lower your voice a beat. Similarly, your voice should go up during the crests and lower during the troughs of the GD.  
**Be articulate**  
You should be articulate enough to put your point across. It often happens that you have a good point in your mind but you are not able to express it due to lack of appropriate words. Hence you should practice speaking and stock up your vocabulary with the right words. You must keep in mind that you should not use any unparliamentarily words or phrases in a GD. Hence along with reading, watching and listening, you must also start speaking.   
**Develop your perceptions**  
This point is specifically helpful for the abstract GD topics. As these GD topics are not direct, you need to first think what would be relevant to the given topic. So you should have the prompt thought process to relate the abstract topic with something more concrete. For this, you need to practice hard. Take the abstract topics which came in the GD of past years and try and relate it with several angles. For example, if the topic is ‘Blue is the new red’, you can relate it with the war between Pepsi and Coca Cola. These perceptions will come after regular and enough practice. So before you brainstorm at the GD, try this at your practice sessions.

**Characteristics of Successful Group Discussion**

For any group discussion to be successful, achieving group goal is essential. Following characteristics are necessary:

**Having a clear objective**: The participants need to know the purpose of group discussion so that they can concentrate during the discussion and contribute to achieving the group goal. An effective GD typically begins with a purpose stated by the initiator.

**Motivated Interaction**: When there is a good level of motivation among the members, they learn to subordinate the personal interests to the group interest and the discussions are more fruitful.

**Logical Presentation**: Participants decide how they will organize the presentation of individual views, how an exchange of the views will take place, and how they will reach a group consensus. If the mode of interaction is not decided, few of the members in the group may dominate the discussion and thus will make the entire process meaningless.

**Cordial Atmosphere**: Development of a cooperative, friendly, and cordial atmosphere avoids the confrontation between the group members.

**Effective Communication skills**: The success of a GD depends on an effective use of communication techniques. Like any other oral communication, clear pronunciation, simple language, right pitch are the pre-requisites of a GD. Non-verbal communication has to be paid attention to since means like body language convey a lot in any communication.

**Participation by all candidates**: When all the members participate, the GD becomes effective. Members need to encourage each other in the GD.

**Leadership Skills**: Qualities like initiation, logical presentation, encouraging all the group members to participate, summarizing the discussion reflect the leadership qualities.

**THE DESIRABLE ATTITUDES IN GD**

The participants should adopt two important attitudes which alone will facilitate a productive and satisfying outcome in any Group Discussion:

1. All participants in the group must accept responsibility for the smooth conduct of the group activities. This orientation means that each member takes on leadership responsibilities even though he is not entrusted any such a role. Instead of passively waiting for someone else to do what has to be done, everyone must actively seek and accept responsibility. In an effective group discussion, there are no absolute followers but different levels and kinds of leaderships and these leaderships keep fluctuating.

2. Another important attitude is open-mindedness -the willingness of the candidate to consider a broad range of ideas and suggestions from others. He must be flexible and must be open to change. Instead of taking rigid stands on issues, the flexible member tries to adapt to the best interests of the group. This requires objectivity- in order to make unbiased, impartial judgments. This does not mean that you completely suppress your subjective and emotional reactions. You try to balance them with objective observations. This requires maintaining a proper perspective, that is, either becoming too neither involved in problems to maintain objectivity nor remaining too distant and uninvolved to be fully unaware of their nature. Finally the participant with the orientation of equality should not nourish notions of superiority and must realize that the fellow participants are equal to him/her in all aspects. You also get an opportunity of noticing and comparing the verbal ability, depth of knowledge, extent of ideas, logical reasoning and the convincing capacity of others and this should enable you to prepare yourself to match with them.

**The Dos and Don’ts in a GD**

**Dos**  
Provide facts and quotes

Control your voice  
Allow others to spea

Maintain your body language    
Listen to others

**Don’ts**  
Don’t enter in the crest

Don’t look at the moderator  
Don’t take a particular side at the beginning:   
Don’t agree with everyone’s point  
Don’t use slang or unparliamentarily language

**PRACTICE -V**

**Interviews and Telephonic Intervuews**

An **interview** is a conversation between two or more people where [questions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Question) are asked by the interviewer to elicit facts or statements from the interviewee.

**Types of Interviews**

**Informal, conversational interview** - no predetermined questions are asked, in order to remain as open and adaptable as possible to the interviewee’s nature and priorities; during the interview the interviewer “goes with the flow”.

**General interview guide approach** - intended to ensure that the same general areas of information are collected from each interviewee; this provides more focus than the conversational approach, but still allows a degree of freedom and adaptability in getting the information from the interviewee

**Standardized, open-ended interview** - the same open-ended questions are asked to all interviewees; this approach facilitates faster interviews that can be more easily analyzed and compared.

**Closed, fixed-response interview** - all interviewees are asked the same questions and asked to choose answers from among the same set of alternatives. This format is useful for those not practiced in interviewing.

Your résumé reflects a lot on what you have achieved in your past but the final decision is made when you actually meet your interviewer and are able to prove what you have given him on paper is what you have to offer in real life too. Interview etiquette unfortunately is not stressed upon in our country. Colleges and schools too should develop activities that involve teaching students the right way to act, communicate, dress and behave.  
  
The first impression is a lasting one, so it is very important that when you walk out after the interview, you leave with confidence that you have not only given it your best but have been able to carry yourself with poise, confidence and in a well mannered way. During my college days in the Practiced States, we had career building work shops and also seminars on Interviews. Such workshops helped us a lot, especially when we were told about minor details that we as interviewees may miss out but the interviewer pays attention to. Here are some tips to do well in an interview:

**Interview Do’s**

 Do make sure that your hands are attractive. This means spotlessly cleaning with trimmed nails.

 Do make sure your hair is in place and conservative.

 Do pay attention to your scent. Women with powerful perfumes and men with intense colognes can destroy interviews. Moderation is recommended.

 Do go to the rest room before you visit the employment lobby. It is embarrassing to interrupt an interview, and you want to be as comfortable as possible.

 Do get a good night’s sleep before each day that you search for employment. If you yawn in the lobby or smother a yawn during the interview, it will cost you. Be rested and at your alert best.

 Do look the interviewer in the eye. Recruiters place a lot of emphasis on eye contact.

 Do try to sparkle! Use gestures in your conversation. Make sure they are smooth and emphatic.

 Do smile.

 Do make sure you get the interview’s name right and use it a few times in the interview.

**Interview Don’ts**

Don’t be late. In fact, plan to be early for any scheduled interview.  Don’t wear your outer clothes into an interview.

 Don’t sit down until you are asked.

 Don’t have anything in your mouth except your teeth-no gum, no candies, no breath mints and no cigarettes (obviously!)

 Don’t lean on or put your elbows on the interviewer’s desk. Sit back in your chair, so the interviewer can see more of you. Sit erect.

 Don’t wear tinted glasses into an interview and if don’t wear your eyeglasses all the time, don’t park them on top of your head. Take them off and put them in your purse or pocket.

 Don’t carry an oversized handbag even if it is fashionable. Carry a bag that is smaller and more manageable. Put it on the floor during the interview. Never place it on the interviewer’s desk.

**PRACTICE - 6**

**DEBATES**

**Debate** is contention in [argument](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argument); dispute, [controversy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Controversy); [discussion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conversation); esp. the discussion of questions of [public interest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_interest) in [Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament) or in any [assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deliberative_assembly).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Debate#cite_note-1)

Debate is a method of interactive and representational argument. Debate is a broader form of argument than [deductive reasoning](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deductive_reasoning), which only examines whether a conclusion is a consequence of premises, and factual argument, which only examines what is or isn't the case, or [rhetoric](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhetoric) which is a technique of persuasion. Though logical consistency, factual accuracy and some degree of emotional appeal to the audience are important elements of the art of persuasion, in debating, one side often prevails over the other side by presenting a superior "context" and/or framework of the issue, which is far more subtle and strategic. The outcome of a debate depends upon consensus or some formal way of reaching a resolution, rather than the objective facts as such. In a formal debating contest, there are rules for participants to discuss and decide on differences, within a framework defining how they will interact.

Debating is commonly carried out in many assemblies of various types to discuss matters and to make resolutions about action to be taken, often by a vote. Deliberative bodies such as parliaments, legislative assemblies, and meetings of all sorts engage in debates. In particular, in parliamentary democracies a legislature debates and decides on new laws. Formal debates between candidates for elected office, such as the leader’s debates and the U.S. presidential election debates are sometimes held in democracies. Debating is also carried out for educational and recreational purposes, usually associated with educational establishments. The major goal of the study of debate as a method or art is to develop the ability to debate rationally from either position with equal ease.

Informal debate is a common occurrence, the quality and depth of a debate improves with knowledge and skill of its participants as debaters. The outcome of a contest may be decided by audience vote, by judges, or by some combination of the two.

### Parliamentary Debate

In [parliaments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament) and other [legislatures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislature), members debate proposals regarding legislation, vote, and make resolutions which become [laws](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law). Debates are usually conducted by proposing a law, or changes to a law. Members of the parliament or congress then discuss it and eventually cast their vote for or against such a law.

#### Public debate

The International Public Debate Association (IPDA), inaugurated on February 15, 1997 at St. Mary's University (Texas) in San Antonio, Texas, is a national debate league currently active in the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Kansas, Alabama, Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Florida, and Oklahoma. Among universities, IPDA is the fastest growing debate association within the Practiceed States. Although evidence is used, the central focus of IPDA is to promote a debate format that emphasizes public speaking and real-world persuasion skills over the predominate use of evidence and speed. To further this goal, IPDA predominantly uses lay judges in order to encourage an audience-centered debate style. Furthermore, although the main goal of the debater is to persuade the judge, IPDA also awards the best speakers within each tournament.