



## **2017 Institute Webinar Series “Coaching LD, part 1” with Christy Shipe**

### **Webinar Summary and Suggested Reading List for Political Philosophy**

This list is a general overview of some classic works in the field for value debate that could apply to all seasons. Some students will find the original work accessible, while others may prefer to read articles summarizing the ideas that came from these books.

#### **Getting Started: Researching the Topic**

- ▶ LD debate requires serious research. Students need to build a broad base of understanding in political philosophy.
- ▶ If possible, start with reading some general works of political philosophy or worldview training.
  - ▶ Worldview Academy, [www.worldview.org](http://www.worldview.org)
  - ▶ Project Gutenberg, [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)
- ▶ Know the philosophers (read the great works).
- ▶ Know the philosophies (understand the ideas and labels).

#### **Suggested Authors**

- ▶ Plato - The Republic
- ▶ Augustine - City of God
- ▶ Machiavelli - The Prince
- ▶ Adam Smith - The Wealth of Nations
- ▶ John Locke - Second Treatise on Civil Government
- ▶ Thomas Paine - Common Sense

- ▶ Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay - The Federalist Papers
- ▶ Frederic Bastiat - The Law
- ▶ Jean-Jaques Rousseau - The Social Contract
- ▶ John Stuart Mill - On Liberty
- ▶ Alexis de Tocqueville - Democracy in America
- ▶ Edmund Burke - Reflections on the Revolution in France
- ▶ Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels - The Communist Manifesto
- ▶ John Rawls - A Theory of Justice
- ▶ Thomas Sowell - A Conflict of Visions

**Then, move on to general, broad reading on the topic**

- ▶ Look up the definitions of the key terms in encyclopedias: Nationalism & Globalism (or Globalization).
  - ▶ [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](http://plato.stanford.edu), plato.stanford.edu
- ▶ Look at the references at the end of the encyclopedia article for more detailed research ideas.
- ▶ After defining the key terms, start researching the value conflict itself.
- ▶ Discuss the topic as you would any other topic, encourage students to form and test their opinions as they develop.
- ▶ Students also need to research historical and modern examples of the value clash from news sources.
- ▶ News sources should have full citations.
- ▶ There is no substitute for knowing and understanding the topic.
- ▶ Research is more important than understanding case structure or debate theory.
- ▶ Divide the background research burden amongst students in your club and encourage them to share their research always reminding them they are responsible for any information they use.