

The Forensics experience may be thought of as something extremely nerve-racking and demanding. To be honest, I was and still am, myself, not sure of how someone is able to stand in front of an audience and face up to the challenge of every event. The competitions I have taken part in have shown me that not everyone is capable of doing well at the same level. What made me keep on trying, even though I am not the best at expressing myself in front of others, was the admiration I developed for the best participants. The thing is, debating uses the power of speech to persuade and, even though I was taught that in my Forensics class, it wasn't until I did it myself that it grew on me. I was really pleasantly surprised by how much of an impact the "debate experts" had on me. They really did have the gift of transmitting their message very clearly! I won't lie, I got a bit jealous of their ability. That, I think, won me over. I learnt that I didn't need to be the best at something to try it. Sometimes, I got a bit discouraged when I heard the most skilled debaters speak, but it also made me quite passionate to work harder to get to their level. It might sound cliché, but it's the truth. Something about observing talent makes you want to cultivate it yourself!

Anna Stathakopoulou