

Forensics came out of nowhere. When it was first presented to us, I thought it was just another after-school activity that would help us improve our English. When we first started experimenting with the activities that we were called to do, it wasn't clear what we were dealing with. It seemed like a difficult and complicated procedure until we were able to realize the greatness of the competition. As time went by, with our teachers on our side, our team started discovering things and developing our abilities and so, we participated in numerous competitions during the school year. We had to learn some things the hard way, especially in Debate, about which we had no clue at first. As a team, as friends and partners, we had to stand on our feet, establish our own techniques, overcome our nervousness and go against teams that had been debating for years. However, as hard as it may have been, we found the passion and the determination to stand at the podium and do our best. Success came along, as we won first place as novices in St Catherine's Debate Competition. It was clear that we were all getting more confident, not just at debating but public speaking in general.

As for me, I fell in love with debating from day one. You see, debate is about different people approaching the same topic from a completely different angle and it is quite astonishing to discover how each and every of your partners, friends or opponents see the world. Forensics, in general, is the best way to face problems, develop your public speaking skills and of course, socialize!

**George Fragkiadakis**