

2016 State Debate Champions

By Celeste Chadwick
& Claire Noack

After a 20-minute wait, the judge's decision was finally announced. Joe Wiedemen '16 and Adam Zabner '17 win the 2016 state championship debate in policy debate in a 3-0 decision.

"It's the tensest moment in debate," Zabner said. "Because most decisions will take maybe 20 minutes to sometimes over an hour, depending on how complex it is. So you're just sitting there, nervous."

Weidemen and Zabner participate in Policy Debate, which consists of a year long topic, a partnership of two, and intense focus on content. This year's topic was "The United States should substantially decrease their domestic surveillance." In the state championship debate, Zabner and Weidemen argued that metadata surveillance violates international law and explained why international law is important.

The tournament consists of six preliminary debates in which each team is for the issue three times and against the issue three times. In elimination rounds a coin toss decides which side each team argues. In the elimination debate, there are three judges who decide the winner.

"Debate, although it is based in real life public policy, is still a competitive 'game,'" City High Debate Coach Vince Woolums said.

According to Woolums, the details of judging debates can become very complicated, but in essence a judge's vote is based on the truth of the arguments, the logic and technical refutation of these arguments, and the person's ability to speak persuasively.

"There are a lot of criteria for judging debates," Woolums said. "Some debates are easy to decide -- one team really underperforms while the other does great -- other debates are more nuanced and technical."

For Zabner, this technical aspect of debate is his favorite part. During the final debate against West High, their team extended many arguments in a short amount of time, trying to pressure the City High team into answering all of them.

"It just clicked that their arguments contradicted each other, and we ended up winning," he said. "That moment where you sort of can figure out how the different arguments interact is really fun."

While Zabner admits that it can sometimes be difficult to argue a side he doesn't agree with, Weidemen sees it differently.

"It's easy to divide yourself from what you actually believe," Weidemen said. "It's just about having fun and learning."

The City High Debate Duo of Joe Wiedemen and Adam Zabner claims the state championship for the second year in a row.



PHOTO BY MAX GRUBER

United Action for Youth Helps Students Find Jobs

By Bella Pittman
& Gabe Weigel

Every Tuesday during Little Hawk Advisory, United Action for Youth, or UAY, will join with students who are in need of a job. Some have already taken advantage of the new program and applied to jobs such as Panera, Lucky Paws, and Hy-vee.

"Our purpose for meeting students at City High is to help them search and apply for jobs," AmeriCorps Staff Member Ashley Lindley said. "We can help a student with everything from building a resume to practicing interview skills."

UAY believes that it is important to empower teens. Obtaining a job in high school can help build resume for college and/or a future career.

"At UAY we are dedicated to helping teens achieve their goals. Sometimes finding your first job can

be intimidating, and we want to be able to help people by giving them the skills they need for success," Youth Development Specialist Jamie Ellis said.

City High student Esther Raymundo '17 is one of many who has gone to the UAY meetings in hope of finding a job. She believes it to be a helpful step to being hired.

"It's a really good opportunity, and if you don't know much and have never applied and/or don't know how to apply, UAY shows you the steps in finding your job," Raymundo '17 said. First, students decide the field he or she would like to work in and find a job to match with their interests.

"We have an updated job list that we bring for jobs that will hire teens. We have resume templates and how to tips, the dos and don'ts for interviews, phone and email etiquette, access to interview clothing, and tips on how

to get and keep a job for making a professional resume," Ellis said.

After the student identifies a potential job, the student and the student's counselor contact the potential employer. UAY also stresses etiquette in all aspects of applying for a job.

"We go over phone and email etiquette so you are prepared to call or to receive a call from an employer. We also do mock interviews and phone calls to calm nerves and ensure success," Ellis said.

This program is open to all City High students. There are no requirements to attend any of the UAY meetings.

"It doesn't matter if you're looking for your first job or your fifth," Lindley said. "UAY can help develop a resume that reflects you personally -- your skills, experience, and activities can all be laid out nicely for an employer to review."



Esta Kilima '18 looks over job options with UAY specialist Ashley Lindley. PHOTO BY BELLA PITTMAN