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# Grand St. Settlement to host World Speech Day Debates

PRESS RELEASE

3/3/2016

**New York, NY** Middle school students from across the Lower East Side will gather at the 145 Stanton Street Campus to compete and cheer at Grand St. Settlement's first intraschool debate in honor of World Speech Day on March 15. They join the New York Urban Debate League (NYUDL), recognized as the most successful debate league in the nation, as well as youth across the globe as they put their research, civic knowledge, and public speaking skills to work.



*The School for Global Leaders debate team is ready to shine.*

"Debate isn't just about helping youth create strong formal arguments in support of an issue or cause; here, debate is about life-long learning, critical thinking and skill-building. This initiative empowers youth to use their voice for advocacy and pushes them to achieve beyond what they thought possible," says Mimi Woldemariam, Deputy Director of Youth Services in Manhattan, who also competed with NYUDL as a student.

Made possible through partnership with the New York Urban Debate League and months of practice during afterschool programming made possible by the city's Department of Youth and Community Development, the competition aims to empower students from under-resourced communities to engage in public speaking, civics, law and ethics - all of which are key to our youth program's curricula to build active and educated community members and leaders.

The tournament will begin at 3:30 PM with slots for teams from six schools. The winners will be announced at 6:00 PM.

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