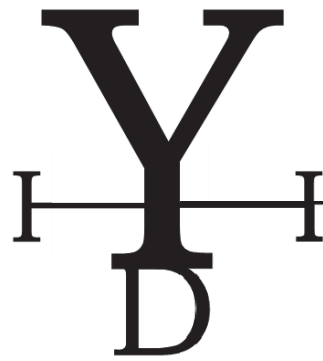


the

YALE

HINDI

DEBATE



Est. 2008

yalehindidebate.org



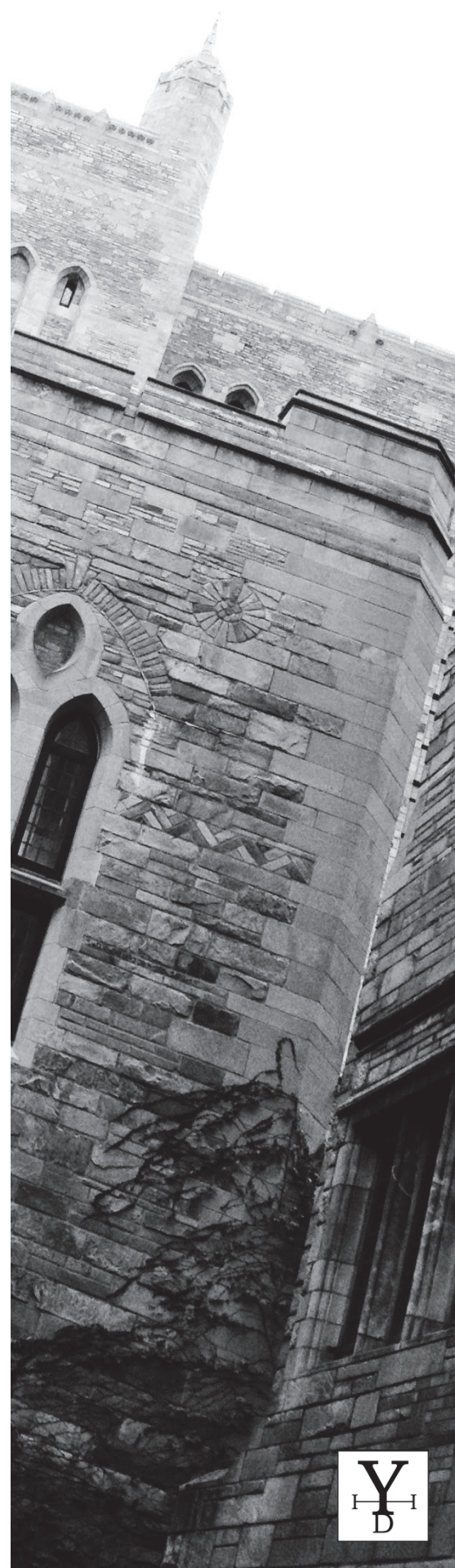




Our Story

Born as a student's idea in a Yale classroom, the Yale Hindi Debate has grown exponentially from an ambitious venture to an intellectual, cultural, and social institution. Every year, it has brought to Yale a diverse set of undergraduate and graduate students from schools all over the United States, to debate, in Hindi, fascinating and thought-provoking issues. Topics in the past have dealt with family, patriotism, religion, marriage, education, democracy, globalization, the "busy-ness" culture, whether we're coddled, and so on. The diversity of participants each year is staggering – some have grown up in India and spoken Hindi all their lives, while others have been acquainted with the language for only a year. Yet all share a passion for Hindi and for the unabashed exchange of ideas.

The event, organized entirely by Yale undergraduates, faculty, and administration, is a one-of-its-kind event – a unique platform that fosters the Hindi language internationally, encouraging its study and use. YHD was established as a Yale-only event in 2008 and now sees participation from faculty and students from USA's preeminent schools, including Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania, NYU, Cornell, UCLA, Wesleyan, Purdue, Rutgers, the University of Texas at Austin, and Wellesley College. It is continuing to grow, adding more schools to its roster.





*Our
Philosophy*

Three key aspects define the Yale Hindi Debate as an institution, making it a truly unique and special endeavor.

Ideas

Before anything else, the Yale Hindi Debate is a debate competition. It sets the stage for intellectual discourse – for thoughtful people to ponder over important issues, form an opinion, craft an argument around that opinion, and then deliver that argument to convince an audience, while engaging with their peers. It is thus more a platform for the showcasing of ideas than a test of linguistic prowess.

Language

The debate seeks also to encourage the study of the Hindi language, and to foster it by creating an atmosphere conducive to speaking, writing, thinking in, and listening to Hindi. Again, the debate is not a test of one's fluency in Hindi. Instead, it is simply a celebration of the Hindi language, and a testament to the role of language in the mingling of cultures.

People

If one were to witness the Yale Hindi Debate on campus, one might call it a social event – and one wouldn't be wrong. Students and faculty from the top universities across the US arrive at the Yale campus, and interact with each other and with Yalies on and off stage – celebrating shared passions and discovering new ones. Further, our student hosts help participants experience the wonderful world that is Yale.





Our Approach

Students have consistently and unanimously found the debate to be a low-investment high-returns experience – enriching, easy, and enjoyable.

Each speaker presents his or her own speech, which he or she has prepared in advance. The speaker is allowed to consult notes, and even resort to casual, conversational Hindi. The speaker speaks uninterrupted for 3 minutes. Finally, after the speaker finishes his or her speech, an audience-member asks the speaker one question based on the speaker's speech.

Speakers are assessed and awarded points only in comparison with students in the same bracket of Hindi proficiency. This allows YHD to remain fair, while accommodating all levels of Hindi proficiency and diverse backgrounds. So, for the purposes of judging, there will be four distinct categories of speakers, and each speaker will compete only within his/her category.

- **Category 1:** Non-Native *Non-Heritage Undergraduate* Speakers
- **Category 2:** Non-Native *Heritage Undergraduate* Speakers
- **Category 3:** *Non-Native Non-Heritage & Heritage Graduate* Speakers
- **Category 4:** *Native Undergraduate and Graduate* Speakers

Participants are typically free to choose either stand – for or against the motion – but may be asked to change their stand in the event of a significant bias towards one stand given all the speakers' choices. Any such decision will be communicated well in advance.

Each participating university is requested to send at least one student and, if possible, one faculty member. The faculty member will serve as a judge on the panel of judges, but will not judge the student from his/her university.





The Prizes

Best Speaker, *Non Heritage, Undergraduate*
Second Best Speaker, *Non Heritage, Undergraduate*
Best Speaker, *Heritage, Undergraduate*
Second Best Speaker, *Heritage, Undergraduate*
Best Speaker, *Non Native, Graduate*
Second Best Speaker, *Non Native, Graduate*
Best Speaker, *Native*
Second Best Speaker, *Native*
Best Interjector





The Rules

Each speaker will present his/her speech in Hindi and then answer, in Hindi, one question from the audience. The speaker will be judged on the following criteria, and will be awarded marks out of 30.

Interpretation of the Motion (2 marks): The speaker should interpret the motion in a holistic fashion, taking into consideration all key facets while crafting his/her arguments.

Logical Presentation of Argument (5 marks): The speaker should be able to convince the House with regard to the validity of his/her stand using logical, structured ideas.

Evidence (2 marks): The speaker should support his/her argument with examples / facts wherever suitable.

Rebuttal of Opponents' Ideas (3 marks): The speaker should anticipate and refute the ideas of his/her opponents, thereby crafting a well rounded and watertight argument.

Stance and Gestures (3 marks): The speaker should adhere to the formal/ethnic dress code for the debate, appear alert and confident, and refrain from leaning on the lectern or using overly distracting gestures.

Address and Format (2 marks): The speaker should engage in the correct use of the conventions and forms of address, should be penalized for rude, personal remarks, and must not address either an opponent or the interjector by name.

Elocution / Diction / Fluency (4 marks): Clear diction, correct pronunciation, minimal hesitation, minimal reading, and a well modulated, expressive voice are the criteria. The speaker should be judged relative only to the other speakers in his/her category.

Time limit (1 mark): The speaker will speak for 3 minutes. A warning bell will be rung after 2½ minutes, and a final bell will be rung after the third minute.

- Under or exceeding the prescribed time by less than 1 minute: 1/1 in 'Time Limit'.
- Under or exceeding the prescribed time by more than 1 minute but less than 2 minutes: 0/1 in 'Time Limit'.
- Under or exceeding the prescribed time by more than 2 minutes: 0/1 in 'Time Limit' & 0/4 in 'Miscellaneous'

Rebuttal of Interjection (4 marks): The speaker should be able to answer the interjector's question confidently, effectively, and without compromising the validity of his/her argument. In the absence of any questions from the audience, the speaker should be allotted full marks for having 'floored' the House.

Miscellaneous (4 marks): An overall impression of the speaker's performance as a debater should be judged. If the speaker reads the entire debate, he/she will receive 0/4 in 'Miscellaneous'.

Regarding the Best Interjector Prize: This will be based on the single best question of the day. The judges will note the name of the interjector (who is required to announce it before he/she asks the question), and mark the question out of 5. Note: cross questioning is not allowed.





YHD *in the*
Press

“...*a pride for Yale*, [the Yale Hindi Debate] was started in 2008 as an internal competition; it has since over the years grown to become a national event.”

“...has truly emerged as *one of the most unique and significant efforts* of the Yale India Initiative and the growth of South Asian Studies in the USA.”

“...not only *bolsters the study of South Asian languages* and cultures at the universities, but also transcends it, as the issues debated pertain to society as a whole, not only to members of the South Asian community.”

CNN IBN
India Today
The Times of India
The Hindustan Times
NDTV
The Indian Express
MSN India
Outlook
Zee News
The Asian Age
The Economic Times
The Deccan Chronicle

The Yale Hindi Debate was presented at the third annual International Hindi Conference, at the Consulate General of India, Manhattan, on April 30, 2016.

The tripartite YHD philosophy -- "Ideas, Language, People" -- was the lens through which the debate was presented, to an audience of academics, diplomats, and journalists. The presentation, which comprised a speech, a short movie, and Q&A, was received with gratifying applause: YHD was seen as a landmark initiative, internationally, for fostering an intellectual space and celebrating the Hindi language. One-of-its-kind, and truly effective.





Tentative Itinerary

**Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue
Yale University**

Dress Code: Formal and/or Ethnic

~ Afternoon ~

Participants arrive at Yale University

~ 5:00 pm | Common Room | 202 ~
Reception

~ 6:00 pm | Auditorium | 101 ~
Debate

followed by an a cappella performance
&
the prize distribution ceremony

~ 8:30pm | Common Room | 202 ~
Indian dinner

~ Night ~

Guests are welcome to spend the
night at Yale. Lodging arrangements for
faculty and students will be made.

Students will be hosted in Yale
residential colleges by Yalies; faculty will
stay at a hotel.



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yalehindidebate.org

for regular news updates on the YHD blog,
press coverage, galleries, and other
relevant details.