

Woodberry Debate Team Reaches District Qualifier  
“Holding down the winter afternoon season for all of us!!!”



Following a protracted winter debate season, the Woodberry Debate Team prepared their final contentions in hopes of placing high in their first tournament this winter. In public forum (A 2 vs 2 styled debate) Reed Graff and Connor Liu prepared cases under the resolution: “On balance, the benefits of urbanization in West Africa outweigh the harms”... And on Saturday the 13th Reed and Connor delivered.

The team met up over Zoom at 8:30 am in the morning on a brisk Saturday morning. The experience was still novel to Connor, but he came prepared, having spent the past two weeks deliberating on contentions for the Con side and responses to Pro contentions. Reed, on the other hand, had already been to the same tournament last year and came with much greater preparation

and confidence than before. The team fought for victory against a total of 15 other teams coming from other neighboring schools, including, but not limited to: Maggie Walker, Smithfield, Jefferson Forest, and Monticello.

After six and a half hours, the team, consisting of Connor Liu and Reed Graff, managed to win three out of four rounds and ended the tournament qualifying for the District Qualifier Tournament (States), scheduled to take place on March 13.

The resolution for the coming debate is “On balance, the benefits of creating the United States Space Force outweigh the harms.” If you are interested in the topic, contact Reed Graff or Connor Liu!