

Thanks again for an amazing time at FFI. I learned so much.

*Ian Kelley*  
*East Chapel Hill High School*

I am sorry that I did not get the opportunity to tell each of you goodbye, but I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to attend FFI. You have an outstanding summer program and I will definitely recommend your camp to future competitors. What drew me to the program was the outstanding coaching staff that you assembled and I found each of them to be so supportive in answering questions and willing to put together information for me to bring back to share with my students. Even though the hours were grueling, it was a very productive experience. Good luck to your teams this season and I hope to see you on the circuit.

*Diane Forbes (NCI)*  
*Carroll Forensics Director*

All institutes are useful in a basic way—namely, they provide almost a whole season's worth of experience in one summer. But not all institutes are equally helpful. What makes FFI such a quality institute is not merely the number of speeches students give, but the commitment and quality of the instructors. While speeches are always a beneficial form of practice, their benefit is taken to the next level by a constant stream of quality feedback from impeccably qualified coaches. Such feedback, combined with drills, lectures, and the intellectually charged environment, accounts for the enormous improvements manifested each year by FFI campers.

In the course of my growth as a debater, it is difficult to overstate the importance of this institute. In my two years there, I have seen my analysis and style improve far more than in any of my three years of debate. My greatest regret is that I did not attend FFI after my freshman year, losing an opportunity to improve dramatically so early in my career. I heartily recommend FFI to any debater (and especially any extemper) who wishes to improve in an environment that is at once relaxed and educational.

*Reid Bagwell (Extemp)*  
*Scarsdale High School*

*[This note was written after Sanika Dange took the championship in Dramatic Interpretation at the prestigious Crestian tournament.]*

Dear Mr. Marks,

Thank you so much! I know I definitely could not have done it without the coaching you gave me. I would like you to know how much I appreciate your time and faith, and I also wanted to let you know that I've decided to go to FFI this year in Oratory.

Again, thank you so much for your help...I couldn't have done this well without you.

-Sanika

I am writing this testimonial on behalf of a friend, mentor, and teacher. Bob Marks and I first met when I was a freshman in high school. At the time, I was entering the world of speech and debate, with a penchant for drama. It was Bob, however, who introduced me to the power of the written word. AP English classes and SAT tutorials are wonderful for those of us who would like to spend the remainder of our lives testing. It is practicality and application, however that turn academics into writers, students into thinkers, and thinkers into doers. Bob Marks gave me the resources no other teacher ever provided. He gave me the resources to use the language as a tool that would shape the very foundations of my life.

When Bob Marks enters a room, he immediately draws you into conversation. His wordplay and vast knowledge make for hours of entertainment. It is this appeal that allows him to transcend the normal 'scary professorial stigma' and instead provide an easy entrance into all things composition. Prior to my tutorials with Mr. Marks, the word structure seemed like a term better suited for science projects and history lectures. Consequently, Bob introduced me to the applications of such unfriendly terms as 'thesis,' 'problem,' and 'resolution.' It takes a lot to help a student understand such concepts, but it takes a great deal more to excite a student into using those same concepts. That is the wonder of Bob Marks. He surpasses his duties as an educator by approaching writing with the fun and joy of sports, acting, and other hobbies of extracurricular interest. There is no obligation to write with

Bob, only anticipation. By infusing such excitement into the curriculum, the student has no choice but to approach the writing with unabated zeal.

If success is in results, than you need look no further than my ten thousand dollar scholarships after winning back-to-back National Oratory Championships. Without the guidance and instruction of Bob Marks, my dreams and goals would have had countless limitations. Bob, however, illustrated how the English language can be used as greater weapon in this world than any knife, gun, or bomb. It is a weapon that can enlighten, inspire, and move masses into action. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Marks, I finally understand how to use my writing skills in such ways as to improve myself and the world around me. And so, I think it is safe to say that any move other than the immediate enlistment of Bob Marks' services, would be a loss not only to said program, but to the students of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Josh Gad