



# Outreach Pod

2020 - 2021

By: Catherine Crooks, Aleah Tilson,  
Lindsay Worley, Ananya Mallik, Sid  
Sirdeshmukh

Art by Will Applewhite



## Who We Are

**Our Purpose** - The mission of the Parr Center is to "nourish and foster ethical reflection on campus and beyond." Creating more accessible opportunities for students to engage in ethical thought and discussion is a central part of that purpose. Therefore, our pod took it upon itself to try to make ethics as widely available as possible by expanding the reach of National High School Ethics Bowl (NHSEB).

**Our Vision** - Our focus is to make NHSEB more equitable by providing resources to new teams. This will broaden the scope of schools that are able to participate, ultimately increasing the depth and breadth of perspectives included in ethical discussions.

**Our Goals** - Our main focus was to produce materials that would give new teams the resources needed to prepare for NHSEB. We set out to make four videos (scripts/ narrations) that new teams will be able to view to better understand the competition, rules, and spirit. We focused on this initiative because we want to improve engagement and participation especially among new teams entering NHSEB.

**Our Audience** - In general, we aim to develop resources that will benefit high schoolers entering NHSEB for the first time. New coaches, judges, and tournament administrators may also find these resources useful, as they touch on the basics of competition. We also realize that some debate teams may be pivoting towards NHSEB, and some of the videos will identify helpful distinctions between both events.

## What We Did

**Ethics Bowl Scrimmage** - To familiarize ourselves with the rules and norms of ethics bowl, our pod members scrimmaged against the NHSEB pod in a mock-round. This was a great introduction to the form. Also, we got to watch some of the exec team perform as moderators, which was later our roles in two of the NHSEB high school tournaments. Thus, this scrimmage was a productive introduction to NHSEB. Also, the Outreach pod won!

**NHSEB High School Tournaments** - For one regional tournament and the national championship tournament, our pod volunteered as moderators. In this role, we guided participants and coaches through the rounds by keeping time, managing technical issues, and presenting winners. We watched videos, read through handbooks, and went to practice moderation sessions to prepare for this role. Both tournaments were successful, and all of our pod members were timely and effective moderators!

**Video Production** - A large part of our work this year focused on making new videos for NHSEBAcademy, a platform which educates new ethics bowl students on how to discuss ethics within the context of NHSEB. Working with the NHSEB Pod, we created proposals for four videos. Lindsay and Catherine wrote scripts (on topics such as tips for judging and what makes ethics bowl unique) while Aleah and Ananya recorded voice-overs for these videos). We finished producing all the content for two videos: *How to Prepare Cases* and *Judging*. We anticipate the compilation of our content into presentable videos which will serve to help NHSEB reach new students.

## Going Forward

**Impact** - This year, we worked consistently alongside the NHSEB Pod to transition NHSEB smoothly to an online platform. NHSEB had the highest number of participants to date at nearly 4,000 from 335 schools. 40% of participating schools this year were 50%+ minority and 30% were 50%+ free/reduced lunch. 67% of participating schools were public schools.

Through our work making educational videos, NHSEB will be more accessible to schools and young ethics scholars across the country. Because not every school can resource their team with a coach, we hope our materials can bridge gaps in equity, providing more teams with the opportunity to compete. Finally, we hope that next year's Outreach Pod will be able to even further grow these numbers and come up with new resources that make information about NHSEB more easily attained.

**Next Steps** - As we close the year, we hope to set groundwork for an ethics bowl competition for older adults in the community. Although the Parr Center is known for its work with high school and college-aged students, we are excited to be engaging with a new group. We look forward to next year's Outreach pod hosting this event and the value our competitors will bring to our organization.

Next, we hope to continue expanding ethics bowl to schools across the country. This year, we hosted 41 regionals in 31 states. Not only do we hope Our hope is to reach a greater number of schools, as well as a more diverse makeup of participants, since ethical discussion should be an educational resource available to all.

**Acknowledgments:** We would like to sincerely thank Michael Vazquez, Sally Moore, and Alex Richardson for helping us achieve our goals this year!