



First Hillbrow Schools Debating Competition

June 2025



[Participants in the Hillbrow Schools Debating Competition](#)

On 16 April the University of Johannesburg Gauteng Research Triangle Inspired (UJ GRT-I) in collaboration with Pre-Ves, a Hillbrow-based non-governmental organisation and Phumelela Institute, successfully hosted the first-ever Hillbrow Schools Debating Competition.

The event brought together three local schools: Phumelela Institute, Whitestone College, and Africa House College. Held at Roseneath Primary School, the competition was also supported by the University of Johannesburg's Community Engagement Unit. The event was further honoured by the presence of Anga Jamela, Marketing and Communications Manager at the Thabo Mbeki Foundation, who lent her support to this important initiative as the senior adjudicator.

Each participating school was represented by both junior and senior debating teams, along with individual junior and senior speakers. The competition aimed to unite local schools while cultivating critical thinking, effective communication and teamwork skills among students.

More than just a debate, this initiative strives to inspire academic excellence and nurture socially conscious, proactive young leaders within the Hillbrow community. The event was a great success. Phumelela Institute secured first place in the junior debate category and was also awarded best junior speaker. Africa House College emerged victorious in the senior debate category and claimed the title of best senior speaker.

This inaugural competition marks a significant step toward empowering youth through dialogue and education and sets the stage for future collaborations that will continue to uplift and inspire learners across Hillbrow.

