

## Public Debate Format

### **PART I: Introduction & opening speeches**

- Moderator's introduction (4 minutes)
- First affirmative opening argument (6 minutes)  
(Opponent questions allowed during the speech)
- First opposition opening argument (6 minutes)  
(Opponent questions allowed during the speech)

### **PART II: Public audience questions (5-10 minutes)**

### **PART II: Middle speeches**

- Second affirmative speech (5 minutes)
- Cross-examination by opponents (2 minutes)
- Second opposition speech (5 minutes)
- Cross-examination by opponents (2 minutes)

### **PART III: Public audience questions (10-15 minutes)**

### **PART IV: Invited guest commentary (10-15 minutes)**

### **PART IV: Closing statements**

- Affirmative closing statement (4 minutes)
- Opposition closing statement (4 minutes)

**For a full transcript of the debate (available in September 2004) and for more information about the Southeast European Youth Leadership Institute, visit**

**<http://www.idebate.org/seeyli/>**



# International Public Debate



**WAKE FOREST  
UNIVERSITY**

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*Can Citizens Get Objective Information  
About the 'War on Terrorism'?*

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**July 29, 2004, 3:30 p.m.**

Forsyth County Public Library  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

### Affirmative

**Marius Nicolescu**  
*Romania*  
**Saranda Stublla**  
*Kosovo*

### Opposition

**Victor Ronjec**  
*Serbia*  
**Marta Ilievska**  
*Macedonia*

**Moderator: Kaltrina Zekolli (Macedonia)**  
**Guest commentator: Deepa Kumar (USA)**

## About SEEYLI

Welcome to this public debate produced by the Southeast European Youth Leadership Institute (SEEYLI). Hosted by the Center for International Studies and the Department of Communication at Wake Forest University, SEEYLI is an educational program funded by the U.S. Department of State and the Open Society Institute. It brings high school students, teachers and community leaders from Albania, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia to the United States for an intensive program of studies in civic culture. For the first part of SEEYLI, students stayed with local families in the Winston-Salem area, commuting daily to Wake Forest University for seminars in content areas such as political participation, campaigns and the media, and conflict and consensus in American politics.

## The Public Debate Program

During the final ten day segment of 2004 SEEYLI, students planned and organized public debates on issues they selected for public discussion, including capital punishment, affirmative action, Olympic security, war in Iraq, the ethics of plastic surgery, and the topic for today's debate – information about the 'war on terrorism.' To prepare for the debates, students studied argumentation theory, researched their specific content areas, practiced debating techniques, and explored how public debates can help develop enlightened citizenries by spurring democratic deliberation on pressing issues. Today's event is the 12th and final debate of the day – the earlier 11 debates were held on the campus of Wake Forest University.

## The Participants

### • Marta Ilieska (Macedonia)

Marta is a 17-year old student who appreciates the arts. After hearing her ability to craft arguments with a solid foundation, audience members will not be surprised to learn that she hopes to pursue architecture as a profession.

### • Deepa Kumar (USA)

Deepa is an Assistant Professor of Communication at Rutgers University. After receiving her Ph.D. in Communication at the University of Pittsburgh, she taught for several years at Wake Forest University. She specializes in critical media studies, focusing on class dimensions of media communication, global media's impact on democracy, and critical analysis of news, with particular attention to news reporting on wars and imperialism. A rising star in the field of Communication, Professor Kumar's work has been featured in scores of prestigious international conferences.

### • Marius Nicolescu (Romania)

This quick-witted 17-year old has a natural affinity for today's topic – he likes journalism, reading, and hopes someday to become a professional journalist. By any objective standard, his chances are excellent!

### • Victor Ronjec (Serbia)

Victor is fond of photography – perhaps this explains his ability to see the "big picture" in debates. He is refreshingly open about his future plans and is not sure about what profession he would like to pursue.

### • Saranda Stublla (Kosovo)

Saranda's acumen for political science comes across in her informed argumentation. She is a 17-year old debater who pursues dancing, reading and swimming in her spare time.

### • Kaltrina Zekolli (Macedonia)

Kaltrina's natural talent for moderating public debates is extraordinarily rare for someone still ten months short of her 17th birthday! In school, Kaltrina enjoys studying microbiology and she hopes to one day go to medical school and become a physician. Her hobbies include handball, riding horses, and reading.



Marta Ilieska (left) questions Marius Nicolescu (right) during a practice debate at Wake Forest University on July 28, 2004. This photograph actually depicts illegal questioning, since Marta is interjecting a "point of information" in the middle of Marius' speech, when the format calls for Marius' opponents to hold their questions until the end of his speech, when a 2-minute cross-examination period commences. While this transgression occurred during moderator Kaltrina Zekolli's watch in practice, she has vowed to keep a short leash on opponent questioning during today's debate (photo G. Mitchell).