

# TODD GRAHAM

*Presidential and Intercollegiate Debates, Persuasion, Interpersonal Communication, Public Speaking*

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Department of Communication Studies  
Southern Illinois University  
Email: toddgraham101@gmail.com

Webpage: [americasdebatecoach.com](http://americasdebatecoach.com)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/americandebate](https://twitter.com/americandebate)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/americasdebatecoach](https://facebook.com/americasdebatecoach)

## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

**Director of Debate** 2000-Present  
Department of Communication Studies, Southern Illinois University

**Director of Debate** 1990-1997  
Department of Language and Communication, Northwestern State University

## TEACHING AND ADVISING

Department of Communication, Southern Illinois University 2000-Present

- Designs and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of public speaking, interpersonal communication, argumentation and debate, persuasion, business and professional communication, and communication and humor.
- Active member of the graduate faculty.

Hugh Downs School of Human Communication, Arizona State University 1997-2000

- Taught undergraduate courses: Interpersonal Communication, Public Speech

Department of Language and Communication, Northwestern State University 1990-1997

- Taught undergraduate courses: Speech, Debate, Interpersonal Communication, Broadcasting.

Department of Speech and Theater, Kansas State University 1988-1990

- Taught undergraduate public speaking courses.

### Other Teaching Experience & Awards

- Instructor, Future Scholars Program for Incoming Minority Students (2005-2009)
- Dean's Award for Excellence, SIU College of Liberal Arts (2002)

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Communication (Interpersonal), Arizona State University 2000

M.A. Speech Communication (Persuasion/Rhetoric), Kansas State University 1990

B.A. Communication (Broadcasting), Missouri Southern State University 1987

## NOTABLE PRESS, INVITED SPEECHES, AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

--Presidential debate expert and regular contributor for CNN Opinion for the past ten years. Wrote a recurring column on CNN.com after all presidential primary and general election debates (2011-2020)

--Keynote Speaker, Chicago Council on Global Affairs (October 23, 2020)

--Interviewed hundreds of times worldwide across media outlets from television to print and radio (2011-2020)

## 2011-2020:

- **Television:** CNN Smerconish, CNN Newsroom with Brooke Baldwin, CNN Newsroom with Poppy Harlow and Jim Sciutto, CNN Newsroom with Fredricka Whitfield, CNN Newsroom with Ana Cabrera, MSNBC The Week with Joshua Johnson, CSPAN Pre-Debate Coverage, BBC World News Television, Al Jazeera's The Listening Post, Al Jazeera's London Evening Newscast, Sky News London (Leaders' debates), CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation), CBC Power & Politics, CTV News (Canadian Television), BT Canada Worldwide (Breakfast in Toronto), Fox News, KABC (ABC7) Los Angeles and Southern California, KTTV (Fox11) Los Angeles, KMOV4 (CBS) St. Louis, CLTV Chicago's Politics Tonight, WGN Television, WSIL Television's Talking Politics, WSIL Television, WSIU Television, RNN TV, NewsNow, France24 (France), WTTV Chicago, WMAQ Chicago, WTTW Chicago PBS
- **Print Interviews:** The Associated Press, US News and World Report, Politico, The Guardian, The Chicago Tribune, MSNBC.com, EFE (Spanish news service), El País, Griot.com at NBC News, NBC News Universal, Monday Morning (Mandag Morgen Copenhagen), Correio Braziliense, Folha de São Paulo, CBC.ca news (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation), EFE news services Spanish newswire, Fox News.com, The Boston Herald, The Washington Examiner, 20 Minutes (France), The Independent (UK), Les Echos (France), Australian Broadcasting Corporation, VnExpress (Vietnam), The Nikkei (Japan), El Universo (Mexico)
- **Radio:** BBC World Service, Associated Press Broadcast, CSPAN, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), RCN Radio (Columbia), Peter Tilden with KABC Los Angeles, Michael Smerconish for the POTUS Channel on Sirius XM, WBBM News radio Chicago, WGN Radio, WWL New Orleans, KNX Los Angeles, KTAR Phoenix, KMOX St. Louis, River Radio Southern Illinois, CKWR (Ontario CA), KCBS San Francisco

## 1992-2011:

- Interviewed dozens of times as a national debate expert during all presidential debating cycles by regional outlets.

## NOTABLE DEBATE COACHING RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### National Coaching Awards and Honors

- National Debate Coach of the Year, presented by the William Jewell Debating Society (2016)
- Lifetime Debate Coaching Award for service and dedication in academics and teaching, The Quintilian Award, presented by Point Loma Nazarene University (2015)
- National Debate Coach of the Year, presented by Washburn Debating Union (2013)
- Ross K. Smith National Coach of the Year, presented by Wake Forest University (1995)
- Brady Lee Garrison Newcomer Award for best new debate program in the country (1991)

### Records and Cumulative Results

- Coached Southern Illinois to more tournament wins, including four national championships, during the 2007-2016 time period than any other debate program in the country
- Final Four of a National Championship Debate Tournament for nine consecutive years, a record for any university in American debate history (2008-2016)
- Coached an individual team to a National Championship of Debate for three consecutive years, a feat never before accomplished in American debate history (2013-2015)
- Teams cleared to elimination rounds and won awards at more than 300 policy or parliamentary debate tournaments (1990-2016)
- Coached Northwestern State University to more wins during the 1991-1996 time period than any other university in the country.

## PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE ANALYSIS AND RELEVANT COLUMNS

1. Graham, T. (October 23, 2020) “Debate Coach: Biden barely passed, but Trump failed.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/23/opinions/biden-trump-last-debate-coach-graham/index.html>
2. Graham, T. (October 8, 2020) “Debate Coach: Pence offers tour through upside-down world.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/08/opinions/pence-harris-debate-coach-graham/index.html>
3. Graham, T. (September 30, 2020) “Debate Coach: Why this debate went terribly wrong.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/30/opinions/why-the-debate-went-terribly-wrong-graham/index.html>
4. Graham, T. (September 25, 2020) “Trump-Biden moderators face a huge challenge.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/25/opinions/2020-trump-biden-debate-moderators-huge-challenge-graham/index.html>
5. Graham, T. (September 23, 2020) “The best debate advice Joe Biden will ever get.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/23/opinions/debate-advice-for-biden-graham/index.html>
6. Graham, T. (June 24, 2020) “The solution is simple: Mandate face masks.” <https://www.smerconish.com/news/2020/6/24/the-solution-is-simple-mandate-face-masks>
7. Graham, T. (March 23, 2020) “The pandemic needed more hype, not less.” <https://www.smerconish.com/news/2020/3/23/the-pandemic-needed-more-hype-not-less>
8. Graham, T. (March 16, 2020) “Debate coach: Biden had his best night to date.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/16/opinions/biden-sanders-march-debate-opinion-graham/index.html>
9. Graham, T. (February 26, 2020) “Debate coach: In South Carolina, an underdog came out on top.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/26/opinions/south-carolina-debate-grades-opinion-graham/index.html>
10. Graham, T. (February 20, 2020) “Debate coach grades the feistiest debate yet.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/20/opinions/las-vegas-debate-todd-graham/index.html>
11. Graham, T. (February 8, 2020) “Debate coach: Buttigieg’s missed opportunity.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/08/opinions/new-hampshire-democratic-debate-graham/index.html>
12. Graham, T. (January 15, 2020) “Debate coach: This candidate gets an F.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/15/opinions/debate-coach-iowa-graham/index.html>
13. Graham, T. (December 20, 2019) “Debate coach: Women won the night.” <https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/20/opinions/december-democratic-debate-opinion-graham/index.html>
14. Graham, T. (November 21, 2019) “Debate coach: Buttigieg and Yang stole the show.” <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/21/opinions/buttigieg-yang-stole-the-show-debate-opinion-graham/index.html>

15. Graham, T. (October 16, 2019) "Debate coach: A star emerged from the Democratic Debate." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/16/opinions/debate-coach-graham-democratic-debate/index.html>
16. Graham, T. (Sept 13, 2019) "Debate coach gives Beto O'Rourke the top grade." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/13/opinions/debate-coach-graham/index.html>
17. Graham, T. (August 1, 2019) "Debate coach: Surprise winners of the debate." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/01/opinions/detroit-debate-night-two-grades-opinion-graham/index.html>
18. Graham, T. (July 31, 2019) "Debate coach: Elizabeth Warren gets an A+." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/31/opinions/debate-grades-warren-wins-opinion-graham/index.html>
19. Graham, T. (June 28, 2019) "Debate coach grades night two debaters." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/28/opinions/debate-coach-night-two-graham/index.html>
20. Graham, T. (June 27, 2019) "Debate coach grades the Democratic debaters." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/27/opinions/democratic-debate-night-one-grades-opinion-graham/index.html>
21. Graham, T. (June 22, 2019) "Debate coach: Smile. Look energized. Don't blow it." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/22/opinions/debate-coach-democratic-candidates-2020-graham/index.html>
22. Graham, T. (March 11, 2019) "The Democrats were right, and the Democrats were wrong." <https://www.smerconish.com/news/2019/3/11/the-democrats-were-right-and-the-democrats-were-wrong>
23. Graham, T. (September 20, 2018) "Paul Manafort: His crimes, ties to Trump, and beyond." <https://www.smerconish.com/politics/paul-manafort-his-crimes-ties-to-trump-and-beyond/>
24. Graham, T. (August 25, 2018) "Trump's worst day: Everything you need to know about the Manafort and Cohen trials." <http://www.smerconish.com/politics/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-manafort-and-cohen-trials/>
25. Graham, T. (January 31, 2018) "A tale of two speeches." <http://www.smerconish.com/politics/tale-two-speeches/>
26. Graham, T. (January 15, 2018) "Who is lying about "shithole"?" <http://www.smerconish.com/politics/lying-shitholes-graham/>
27. Graham, T. (October 20, 2016) "Debate coach: Trump's strategy mistakes too serious to overcome." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/20/opinions/debate-coach-grading-third-presidential-debate/>
28. Graham, T. (October 10, 2016) "Debate coach: Trump's constant hyperbole is starting to work against him." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/10/opinions/debate-coach-grading-the-town-hall-debate-graham/>
29. Graham, T. (October 5, 2016) "Debate coach: Defending Trump? Too much for Pence." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/05/opinions/debate-coach-pence-kaine-graham-opinion/>
30. Graham, T. (September 27, 2016) "Debate coach: Trump simply couldn't stand being criticized." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/27/opinions/debate-coach-clinton-trump-debate/>

31. Graham, T. (September 26, 2016) "Debate coach: Expect Clinton vs. Trump to be an Olympic battle of wits." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/25/opinions/debate-coach-compares-clinton-trump-graham/>
32. Graham, T. (April 15, 2016) "Debate coach: Bad night for Bernie." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/15/opinions/debate-coach-democratic-debate-graham/>
33. Graham, T. (March 11, 2016) "Debate coach: Who won the GOP debate?" <http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/11/opinions/debate-coach-gop-miami-graham/>
34. Graham, T. (March 10, 2016) "Disappointing performances from Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/10/opinions/debate-coach-democratic-miami-graham/>
35. Graham, T. (March 7, 2016) "Debate coach: Who won the Flint Democratic debate?" <http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/07/opinions/flint-democratic-debate-graham/>
36. Graham, T. (March 4, 2016) "Debate coach: Kasich gets a 'B+', but Trump scores an 'F' in GOP debate." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/04/opinions/debate-coach-fox-trump-graham/>
37. Graham, T. (February 26, 2016) "A lesson in taking down Trump." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/26/opinions/debate-coach-texas-gop-opinion-graham/>
38. Graham, T. (February 14, 2016) "Debate coach: A shameful Republican debate." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/14/opinions/gop-debate-grading-candidates-graham/>
39. Graham, T. (February 12, 2016) "Do voters want the dream or the details?" <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/12/opinions/democratic-debate-wisconsin-debate-coach-graham/>
40. Graham, T. (February 7, 2016) "Debate coach: Only one candidate got an A." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/07/opinions/republican-new-hampshire-debate-coach/>
41. Graham, T. (February 5, 2016) "Clinton, Sanders battle over 'gods' and 'devils'." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/05/opinions/progressive-clinton-sanders-debate-graham/>
42. Graham, T. (January 29, 2016) "Debate coach: Sorry Donald Trump, you lose." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/29/opinions/iowa-gop-debate-graham/>
43. Graham, T. (January 18, 2016) "Debate coach: Who flunked debate 101?" <http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/18/opinions/graham-democratic-debate-graded/>
44. Graham, T. (January 15, 2016) "Debate coach: Cruz got crushed." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/15/opinions/graham-republican-debate-reaction/>
45. Graham, T. (December 20, 2015) "Just the facts, please, candidates." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/20/opinions/graham-democratic-debate/index.html>
46. Graham, T. (December 19, 2015) "Finally, Jeb Bush fights back at Trump." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/16/opinions/graham-gop-vegas-debate/index.html>
47. Graham, T. (November 16, 2015) "Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders: Here's how to improve." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/16/opinions/graham-second-democratic-debate/index.html>

48. Graham, T. (November 11, 2015) "Debate coach: Trump wants 'Operation Wetback'?"  
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/11/opinions/graham-fox-biz-debate/>
49. Graham, T. (October 30, 2015) "Debate coach: CNBC's atrocious debate."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/29/opinions/graham-gop-debate/index.html>
50. Graham, T. (October 14, 2015) "Debate coach: Hillary Clinton, a woman among boys."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/14/opinions/graham-democratic-debate/index.html>
51. Graham, T. (September 19, 2015) "Debate coach: Trump's autism claim a disgrace."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/17/opinions/graham-cnn-debate/>
52. Graham, T. (August 7, 2015) "Donald Trump was terrible."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/07/opinions/graham-trump-was-terrible-debate/index.html>
53. Graham, T. (August 5, 2015) "If you didn't make the cut for debate, forget about being president."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/05/opinions/graham-gop-debate-second-tier/index.html>
54. Graham, T. (October 23, 2012) "Debate coach: Romney walked into 'bayonets' line."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/23/opinion/graham-third-debate/index.html>
55. Graham, T. (October 17, 2012) "Debate coach: Why Obama was stellar this time."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/17/opinion/graham-debate-coach/index.html>
56. Graham, T. (October 12, 2012) "Debate coach: It's the Biden show!"  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/12/opinion/graham-vp-debate/index.html>
57. Graham, T. (October 5, 2012) "Debate coach: Obama, heat up; Romney, stay cool."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/04/opinion/graham-presidential-debate/index.html>
58. Graham, T. (October 3, 2012) "Debate coach: Obama, Romney are top performers."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/02/opinion/graham-presidential-debate/index.html>
59. Graham, T. (February 23, 2012) "For Santorum, debate could have been even worse."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/02/23/opinion/santorum-debate-loss/index.html>
60. Graham, T. (January 27, 2012) "Romney beats Gingrich at his own game."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/27/opinion/graham-debate-florida/index.html>
61. Graham, T. (January 24, 2012) "Romney does some damage."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/24/opinion/graham-florida-debate/index.html>
62. Graham, T. (January 20, 2012) "Santorum was debate's real winner."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/20/opinion/graham-santorum-debate/index.html>
63. Graham, T. (January 17, 2012) "Debate audience, or whooping football crowd?"  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/17/opinion/graham-south-carolina-debate/index.html>
64. Graham, T. (January 9, 2012) "Why Romney dominates debates."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/08/opinion/graham-romney-edge-debates/index.html>
65. Graham, T. (December 16, 2012) "At debate, Bachmann does some damage."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/12/16/opinion/graham-iowa-gop-debate/index.html>

66. Graham, T. (December 12, 2011) "It was Romney's debate to lose, and he did."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/12/11/opinion/graham-debate-romney/index.html>
67. Graham, T. (November 23, 2011) "Who can you believe at GOP debates?"  
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/11/23/opinion/graham-gop-debate-credibility/index.html>
68. Graham, T. (November 10, 2011) "An 'oops' that could mean 'over' for Perry."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/11/10/opinion/graham-debate-perry/index.html>
69. Graham, T. (October 19, 2011) "Candidates let the punches fly in debate."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/18/opinion/cnn-debate-opinion-roundup/index.html>
70. Graham, T. (October 18, 2011) "What to watch for in tonight's debate."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/18/opinion/graham-debate-guide/index.html>
71. Graham, T. (October 12, 2011) "Romney wins debate cross-examination."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/12/opinion/graham-gop-debate-analysis/>
72. Graham, T. (September 23, 2011) "Timing is everything, and Perry didn't have it."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/09/23/opinion/graham-debate-gop/index.html>
73. Graham, T. (September 8, 2011) "Perry's night of 'duck the question.'" ' '   
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/09/08/graham.debate.gop/index.html>
74. Graham, T. (August 12, 2011) "Debate coach on GOP: Fun dust-ups, missed opportunities." <http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/08/12/graham.iowa.debate/index.html>
75. Graham, T. (June 14, 2011) "Romney and the 6 V.P. contenders."  
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/06/14/graham.gop.debate/index.html>