Debate coaches are primarily teachers. They teach their own students during practice sessions and sometimes in classes; when the teacher-coach attends a tournament with his or her students, he or she will be a judge at the tournament. An effective teacher-coach, first and foremost, must be familiar with the principles of debate. One can become an excellent teacher even if he or she is not an outstanding debater and even if he or she did not participate in debate at all. So, the first things that a teacher-coach needs to do are to carefully review the materials in the first four parts of this text and review other books about argumentation and debating. Only then will the teacher-coach be able to impart these principles to his or her students.

Beyond the need to become familiar with principles of debate, a teacher-coach will almost certainly be called on to judge debates at tournaments that his or her students attend. Chapter 22 is about the subject of judging and evaluating debates. Some, but not all, teacher-coaches will be called on to help administer and conduct debate tournaments. Sometimes the tournament will be on the teacher-coach’s campus so he or she will be the primary tournament administrator. Other times, he or she will be asked by some other tournament host to help administer a tournament. Chapter 23 focuses on the skills needed to be an effective tournament administrator.