Amidst a market of excellent debate textbooks is one of the newest additions to the field by Michael Bartanen and David Frank entitled *DEBATING VALUES*. While there are other texts that deal with value debate, either in whole or part, this paperback of 240 pages clearly addresses a need in the field of academic debate. Bartanen and Frank offer a comprehensible, theoretically-grounded, and pragmatically-developed introduction to the nature and practiced of values debate.

The authors are to be commended for assuming a philosophical orientation to debate that firmly grounds debate in its proper and worthy context as a *rhetorical* activity. It is true that most debate textbooks make reference to debate as a rhetorical tradition, but this particular text does far more than offer a historical reference. Throughout their text, Bartanen and Frank accord a substantive rhetorical foundation to debate that it (in principle) richly deserves, but is often overlooked or understated. In this rhetorical context, Bartanen and Frank note in their preface, "We think debate ought to be 'audience-centered'; it ought to stress good communication skills and teach students to adapt to different kinds of audiences." (p. vii)

*DEBATING VALUES* contains ten chapters grouped into three sections. According to the preface, Chapters 1 through 4 establish the nature and foundation of debating values through a groundwork of theory. In the next section, Chapters 5 through 7, apply and relate these theories to the practice of academic debate. Finally, Chapters 8 through 10 offer a synthesis of theory and practice by focusing on issues and topics that are inherent in competitive academic debate. Each chapter is introduced by a set of chapter objectives and is concluded with a brief summary. In addition to Appendix A (sample debate) and Appendix B (key debate terms), Chapters 3, 4, and 9 each provide their own appendix of critical supplementary materials. Each chapter also contains footnotes that lead readers to further information about the concepts covered.

Overall, this textbook approaches values debating by addressing and blending structural and situational elements of debate, which is another way the authors present a rhetorical perspective of debate. Perhaps the overall strengths of *DEBATING VALUES* can be characterized in four ways: 1) clarity of purpose; 2) ease of understanding; 3) conciseness; and 4) skillful application of theory to practical usage in
competitive academic debate. With these general considerations in mind, specific strengths of the text can now be discussed.

First, chapter 2 presents material concerning speaker duties, issues, and debate formats, all of which are typically covered in debate textbooks. In DEBATING VALUES, however, the concepts reflect a decidedly rhetorical perspective which is both innovative and refreshing. For example, Table 2.3 describes Types of Debate Assertions and Claims, which include the following: Initiating, Signifying, Refuting, Questioning, Clarifying, and Refocusing. Although these labels reflect techniques that are not new to teachers/coaches of debate, the discussion of technique combines structural and situational considerations of message content and analysis.

Second, Chapter 3 provides a descriptive examination of competing values and their place within value hierarchies. Specific attention is given to value claims of significance, cause-effect, utility, and principle. Equally important to an understanding of debate is the concept of stock issues. Although primary focus is given to stock issues in values debate, the authors do briefly discuss stock issues in policy debate which offer useful comparative insight. The stock issues applied to values debate are that of definition, criteria, significance, and comparison. At the end of Chapter 3 is a select bibliography of materials related to values theory which would be quite useful to the reader.

Third, Chapters 6 (affirmative) and 7 (negative) offer excellent prescriptive suggestions about developing affirmative and negative positions. Through a focus on structural responsibilities and situational strategies, the text presents a clear and concise step-by-step procedure that is followed in competitive academic values debate. Throughout this chapter, as well as others, simple and direct charts are used to direct the reader to important guidelines, concepts, or directions. The theoretical section on types of negative issues and claims, and practical applications (including a briefed value objection) is particularly noteworthy.

Fourth, Chapter 8 is devoted exclusively to a study of paradigms, both structural and situational. Typically, such a discussion in debate texts is cursory, particularly in reference to values debating. But this chapter offers a very useful examination of how structural paradigms compare debate to some other decision making contexts, while situational paradigms establish strategic choices based on an analysis of context and audience. Once again, values debate is placed clearly into an audience-centered, rhetorical perspective. Structural paradigms discussed are: policy-making, judicial, and issues-agenda. Situational paradigms examined are information-processing, game-playing, and speaking skills.
Fifth, the concept of ethics and ethical behavior is covered in Chapter 10. The approach taken in this chapter is not only interesting, but extremely valuable to any student or coach of debate. The chapter is organized around a series of brief case studies, followed by a discussion of whether or not ethical behavior was violated. Of particular interest are the treatment of ethical attitudes toward others, ethics of fast delivery, and ethics of squirrel cases. This chapter provides a useful clarification of the intent and meaning of ethical behavior and specifies what actions, while perhaps spurious in strategic intent, are not unethical.

In sum, *DEBATING VALUES* by Michael Bartanen and David Frank is an excellent values debate textbook for use as a primary text or a handbook for debaters not enrolled in a debate course. The textbook is thorough, yet concise. And the rhetorical perspective presented is singularly noteworthy.

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