

## “The Great Debaters” Movie Questions

**Directions:** Answer each question according to your interpretation of the movie.

1. Explain the contrasting images in the beginning scenes of the movie and what they say about each character introduced via these scenes.
2. Describe the setting (time & place).
3. Who wrote the poem that Tolson {Denzel Washington} read?
4. What are the two places that Mr. Lowe says you can read all day?
5. In debates, what are your weapons?
6. What does affirmative mean?
7. What does the negative mean?
8. Who are the main characters (3)? Write their name in the movie and describe each one.
9. How old is Mr. Farmer?
10. What college are the debaters representing?
11. Summarize the incident with the pig. What would you have done?
12. At the homecoming dance, what does Mr. Farmer daydream about?
13. Would you have followed Mr. Tolson to the secret meeting in the barn? Why? Why not?
14. What is the topic of the first debate against Palquon College?
15. What is the result of the first debate?
16. What kind of support does Ms. Boone use to support her opening argument against Oklahoma City?
17. Why was Tolson arrested? Because he was a \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Who are the reigning debate national champions?
19. Even though the team lost their debate, what is the good news that Mr. Tolson receives when he gets home?
20. Why can Mr. Tolson not go with the team to debate Harvard?
21. What happens the night before the debate that throws a curve ball in the team’s plan?
22. What is Mr. Farmer’s final argument? What gives it power? What gives him credibility on the topic?
23. List five plot events in chronological order (the order in which events occur).
24. Pick one character. Then, write four interview questions for that character.
25. Which scene resonated most with you and why?