

Presentation Highlights

General audiences discover why 80,000 constituents flocked to hear Stephen A. Douglas debate Abraham Lincoln. The presentation spans the 2,100-mile distance between the Illinois debate sites. Programs are typically one hour but can be tailored to meet scheduling needs. Those who attend hear why Lincoln came out of political retirement to oppose Douglas, how two great debaters aroused the public, and the ways their contest continues to shape politics. Best of all, people gain an appreciation for debates that helped define America's democracy.



**Commemorative Boulder
Jonesboro, IL**

Following Lincoln As He Followed Douglas

*The 1858 political contest that
reshaped America*

GEORGIANN BALDINO

Speaker and Author



Debate Memorial Quincy, Illinois

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Following Lincoln and Douglas

In 2008 Illinois commemorated the sesquicentennial of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. In 2009 the country celebrates the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, and in 2010 Civil War remembrances begin.



Lincoln and Douglas debated at seven sites scattered around the state.

In 1858 Lincoln began his campaign by following Stephen A. Douglas around to take advantage of the crowds Douglas drew. Historians emphasize the 1858 Illinois Senate race as an important landmark on Lincoln's road to the presidency and as a serious blow to Douglas's political future, but the meetings also became sustained discussions of the issue of slavery.

The candidates for wrangled for 21 hours on seven stages, battling to gain support for different views of America's future.

Lincoln and Douglas were experienced lawyers, who argued the case before the public. They grappled with an uncertain future and developed their arguments as they went along. Lincoln left some unanswered questions at the first debate, creating a cliff-hanging atmosphere. People couldn't wait for the next round.



Washington Park
Ottawa, Illinois

Testimonials

"Fact-filled and fascinating ."

"Very interesting and well presented."

"I finally understand the importance of the debates."

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Georgiann Baldino

has been a speaker and facilitator for over seven years. She heads her own consulting business, which she established in 2004. The following year she partnered with a clinical social worker to create a cancer support group and now serves as co-facilitator for the program at Edward Cancer Center.

She is a member of the World Speakers Association, the American Professional Speakers Association and the Illinois Speakers' Association. Georgiann is experienced at giving programs, ranging from small workshops to large public gatherings. She is the author of four books, numerous short stories and dozens of nonfiction articles.



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