

## The Great Debaters

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There is something about the victory of the underdog that is inspiring. To triumph by overcoming adversity is the ultimate success story.

Loosely based on a true story, The Great Debaters depicts just that – the ultimate success story for a group of African American students in the midst of a racially-charged debate.



This story is driven by debate coach Melvin Tolson (Denzel Washington) at the historically black Wiley College. Challenged by the social milieu of his time and under constant fire for his unconventional leadership and radical views, Melvin uses his drive and the power of words to turn a group of African American students into an elite debate team.

At a time when Jim Crow laws were common and lynch mobs were a daily fear for African Americans, Melvin fights to place his debate team on equal footing with whites in the American south.

But, The Great Debaters tells the story of more than a determined debate team, it showcases the potential impact of powerful leadership, collective passion and an intense will to overcome.

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