



Debate 1 2015-16

Instructor: Mrs. Darby Morris

E-Mail Address: dmorris2@dentonisd.org

Conference Period: 2A (9:50-11:20) and 4B (1:40-3:05)

Room: 149

Phone: 940-369-2108

Tutorials: by appointment

Introduction:

I hope to teach you to be the best debater you can be. However, debate comes with hard work and dedication. Not only will you gain essential speaking and argumentation skills that you can use beyond this class, but Debate I also counts as a Speech credit. ☺

Class Materials:

- 3-ring binder
- Black or blue pens
- Notebook paper
- Flash-drive or access to Google docs and classroom
- Brief case or file box
- Digital timer (optional)

Classroom Rules and Procedures:

- Be respectful.
- All academic disputes will be handled privately.
- Remember that fair does not always mean equal.

Retesting/Revising, Deadline, Make-up Work Policies:

- This class follows district and campus policies and procedures.

Grading:

- Major Summative Assessments: 60%
 - Constructive cases
 - CX and LD debates in class
 - Speeches
 - Participation in tournaments (approximately one per month)
 - Current event paper
 - Assessment over debate terminology (1st quarter only)
 - Assessment over speech terminology (3rd quarter only)
- Minor Summative Assessments: 40%
 - Current event weekly quizzes
 - Participation
 - Research
- Formative Assessments:
 - Practice CX and LD debates in class
 - Team building activities
 - Practice with terminology

- Current Event Assignments:
 - Current event quizzes: in preparation for the current event quizzes on World and U.S. news (every Thursday or Friday), you will need to follow the *Associated Press News*.
 - You can download the AP Mobile App on your Smartphone.
 - Or you access the news from the website directly at hosted.ap.org.
 - You will need to hover over “Top News” to view the U.S. and World news
 - The quizzes will ask questions about news articles dated one day prior to the quiz. The articles are fairly brief, though it is advantageous to be aware of what is going on in the world around us. And you may even stumble upon articles you can use to improve your cases or bring up extemporaneously during debate rounds.
 - Current Event Paper (to replace tournament participation if unable to attend):
 - Compose a minimum of 500 words on a significant current event (U.S. or world news).
 - Refrain from writing about pop culture; I do not want to know more about Beyoncé’s divorce or J.Lo’s secret diet. And researching such topics will not likely improve your research or debate skills. So stick with pertinent topics.
 - Use a minimum of 3 different reliable news sources (must be properly cited in MLA format)
 - Must include an introduction, three main points with supportive evidence, and effective conclusion
 - Must affirm or oppose the topic (form an argument)
 - Use correct grammar and mechanics

Tournament Details:

- Dates: I will soon have a list of dates for the tournaments we will attend this year, so you can plan accordingly.
- Absence Responsibilities: Most tournaments will be on Saturdays but occasional on Fridays. If a tournament is on a Friday, your absence from school will be excused. However, you are still responsible for getting your assignments from your teachers beforehand. Plan ahead, so you do not get behind!
- Attendance Expectation: Everyone is expected to attend and participate in tournaments.
- Attire: you are expected to dress professionally at tournaments.
 - Boys: Black/gray dress pants (slacks), dress shirt, and perhaps a suit jacket and tie if you have them
 - Girls: Black/gray dress pants or modest, dressy skirt with professional blouse
- Transportation: I transport students from DHS to tournaments in a van reserved by DHS UIL through Enterprise. For each tournament, all students planning to attend must bring back a signed UIL permission slip before getting on the school van.