



### **Debate 1 2014-15**

**Instructor:** Mrs. Darby Morris

**E-Mail Address:** [dmorris2@dentonisd.org](mailto:dmorris2@dentonisd.org)

**Conference Period:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Block Daily (11:25-1:35)

**Room:** 212

**Phone:** 940-369-2170

**Tutorials:** Mornings 8:00-8:30 &

Thursdays 4:15-5:30

*Additional tutorials by appointment*

**Website:** [www.dentonisd.org/ddyer](http://www.dentonisd.org/ddyer)

### **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 and pencils
- Notebook paper
- Flash-drive
- Brief case or file box
- Digital timer (optional)

### **Classroom Rules:**

- Be respectful at all times.
  - Respect is the overriding theme of our class. Everything in this classroom revolves around respect. I want to treat you like the adults that you are becoming, and I want you to treat each other and me in the same manner.
- **Restroom Breaks:** You will not be allowed to leave without a pass. Do not ask to go to the restroom during lectures, discussions, or presentations unless it is an *extreme* emergency. If you have a chronic problem, a doctor's note is required. Also, do not ask to go to the restroom at the beginning of class; you will miss initial and pertinent instructions. If you ask to go before the bell rings, you must return before the bell; otherwise, you will be marked tardy.
- **Tardiness:** Do not be late. If you are with another teacher, bring a note. And please come in quietly; ask for instructions at an appropriate time without interrupting a lecture, discussion, etc.
- **Personal Technology:** IPODS AND CELL PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS UNLESS PERMISSION IS GIVEN. If I catch you using your cell phone without permission, you will get only one warning. If you have it out again, you will be issued a 30-minute detention. If I catch you with it for a third time, I will take it up and contact your parent. However, because Debate is a research-based class, I will often allow you to use your Smartphone for research. You may also bring a laptop (optional) on days you are researching and/or working on your cases.

- **Assignment Tray:** Each class will have a tray to turn in assignments. Do not put assignments on my desk or in my hands. I am not responsible for lost work that is not placed in the tray. Always put assignments in the designated tray for your class.
- **Academic Integrity Policy – Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a violation of the Denton ISD Academic Integrity Policy. Plagiarism, by definition, is “to use and pass off (the ideas or writings of another) as one’s own.” Plagiarizing a paper will result in the following: PARENT CONTACT, ISS, and STUDENT’S FILE DOCUMENTED. If you are going to use something that someone else has said, put it in quotes and cite the source it came from.

### **Consequences:**

Failure to comply with classroom rules or school policies will result in the following consequences:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Offense** – Documented warning
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** – Call to parent
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** – 30-minute detention with teacher to be completed before or after school
- **4<sup>th</sup> Offense** – 90-minute all school detention after school in the lecture hall

If a problem persists or a serious incident occurs, a referral will be given to the appropriate assistant principal.

### **Grading:**

- Major Summative Assessments: 70%
  - Constructive cases
  - CX and LD debates in class
  - Speeches
  - Participation in tournaments (approximately one per month)
  - Current event paper
  - Assessment over debate terminology (1<sup>st</sup> quarter only)
  - Assessment over speech terminology (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter only)
- Minor Summative Assessments: 30%
  - Current event weekly quizzes
  - Participation
  - Research
  - Practice CX and LD debates in class
- Formative Assessments:
  - Team building activities
  - Practice with terminology
  - Practice with case building
- 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 Beyonce’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: Dress pants (slacks), dress shirt, and perhaps a suit jacket and tie if you have them
  - Girls: Dress pants or modest, dressy skirt and blouse
  - Black (skirt/pants) and white (shirt/blouse) are commonly worn.
- Transportation: We will likely commute with other UIL organizations from DHS to tournaments. If there are any additional tournaments we would like to attend that offer Debate, I will transport a group of students (who cannot provide their own transportation) in a van rented by the school. For each tournament, all students planning to attend must bring back a signed UIL permission slip before getting on the school bus or van.