

# DEBATE I COURSE SYLLABUS

Our goal as a Debate class over the course of this year is to prepare you to actively participate as a member of your community in the area of public discourse, to understand the democratic process, and to prepare you for high school Debate competition on the local, state, and national levels. We will be accomplishing this goal in a variety of ways.

1. Individual Presentations: These include extemporaneous speeches and Lincoln-Douglas Debates
2. Partner Presentations: These include philosophy research projects, Public Forum Debates, and Policy Debates
3. Group Presentations: These include peer critiques of cases and rebuttals as well as Congressional Debate.

## GRADING:

The most important thing for me is that for each of these projects, you at least try to complete your oral presentation. The first time will be difficult for many of you, so we as an audience will do our best to support you. My grading philosophy is more focused on learning the material than on an actual numerical grade. Students will be able to re-do assignments up to full credit as many times as they need. If an assignment is turned in late the student can achieve the highest percentage after late points are removed. The grading breakdown is as follows:

1. Homework/Quizzes/Daily Grades: (30%) There are many small assignments that make up each major project. On your project assignment sheet, there will be a list of what these are and when the grades will be taken. Please note that this is a very big part of your final average.
2. Major Presentations: (40%) There will be 2-3 major oral presentations each 9-weeks. You will be given an assignment sheet outlining the details at the beginning of each project. The final grades on those projects will be averaged for this part of your grade.
3. Tournament Participation: (30%) There is a travel requirement for this class. In order to pass Debate I, you must travel and compete in 1 tournament in the fall and 1 tournament in the spring. I encourage you to compete more frequently to fully understand the in-class concepts.

Debate 1 is a yearlong course, NOT a semester course. Under very few circumstances will drops from the Debate classes at the semester mark be accepted by either Ms. Myrick or the counseling office. You and your parents will need to meet with both Ms. Myrick and your counselor in order to drop the class. If you are concerned about your grade, do not hesitate to talk to Ms. Myrick at least two weeks before the nine weeks' grades are final, due to the rigorous tournament schedule.

## LATE WORK:

Students must realize that in a Debate class, each assignment is a stepping stone to the next, choosing to get a zero on one assignment will generally result in a chain reaction of zeros and a failing grade in the course. Every class day that an assignment is late, 10 points will be docked from the grade you receive on the assignment. This policy applies to daily work and homework only. Speeches and presentations not ready on the assigned date will be docked 20 points for every day it is late.

## S U P P L I E S:

Every student will need to provide 1 ream of 8.5 X 11 white copy paper as well as 1 ream of 8.5 X 14 white legal paper. These will be used by everyone in the class throughout the year and will be stored in my classroom. If any student has difficulty obtaining these school supplies please let me know ASAP.

## H A N D B O O K / T R A V E L:

All Debate I students are required to read and sign that they have received and read the debate handbook and syllabus. Rules regarding tournament participation and expectations are included in the handbook. These signed documents are due to me the second Friday after the start of the school year.