



# Aptitud Academy Syllabus

Teacher: Brooks

Grade: 6/7/8

Subject: Debate

## Links:

NewsELA (most homework will be done on this site)

<https://newsela.com/content/browse/browse-home/ckcdgr4qy00003hof00i2mwlq/#news-articles-latest>

Middle School Debate Union (Resources for Curriculum)

[https://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/middle\\_school\\_debate/](https://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/middle_school_debate/)

## Paragraph of Intro

**Earn the respect and admiration of your family, friends, and social media followers by winning arguments through claims, evidence, and reasoning (as well as a fair amount of wit)!**

This course will develop and improve public speaking, written, research, argumentative, and critical thinking skills in communication settings. Students will prepare and deliver written presentations and participate in several of in-class debates and regular discussions. Students will daily read, research current controversies to discuss during class.

## Course Unit Themes & Outcomes

One of the most important educational, political, and social issues of today is how best to have a civil conversation in a democratic society. Our past, present, and future depend on this essential process: citizens gather, listen to each other, debate, make up their minds, and determine a course of action.

Polarization of opinions, coupled with the speed and access of the digital age have made it more difficult to keep our conversations civil in America today. From shouting matches, to opinionated blog posts, to rhetoric-filled political debates, we are confronted every day with uncivil conversation.

The Following Topics Will be researched, discussed, written about, and presented.

- 1) Science Denial (Flat Earth, Evolution, Climate Change) *September*
- 2) Political Platforms/Ideologies (Democrat vs. Republican, Conservative vs. Liberal) *October*
- 3) Presidential and Vice Presidential Debates *November*
- 4) Election Lawsuits *December*
- 5) Protests/Demonstrations/Riots/Insurrections/Civil Disobedience causes/effects/outcomes (*Jan-March*)
- 6) Famous Debates in History (*April-June*)

## CCSS Essential Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.3  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.4  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.5  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.6  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1

### SEL/Morning Meeting

Teacher meets synchronously with all students via video conferencing to kickstart day, allow for a sense of connectedness, and address SEL needs.



### Large Group Instruction

Direct live instruction to whole class via video conferencing



### Small Group Instruction

Teacher provides scheduled small group instruction to each students via video conferencing. Required for ELL



### Asynchronous Learning

Teachers create assignments (with proper scaffolds - ie tutorial videos, etc.) to allow for student practice, check for student understanding and provide feedback



### Attendance/ Parent Communication

Teachers should maintain contact with parents and respond to questions/concerns and be proactive about providing support to students/families who are not completing assignments/attending class\*

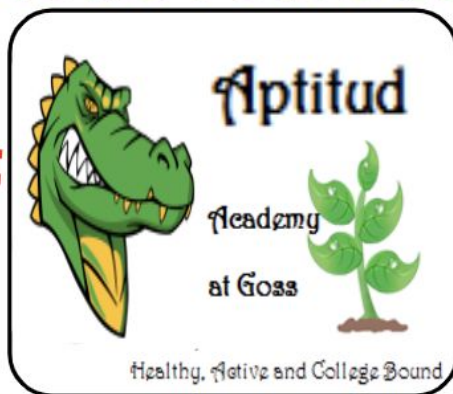


## Classroom Expectations

# APTITUD ACADEMY ONLINE

## BEHAVIORS FOR SUCCESS!

**ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS**



**GRADES  
COUNT**

**SHOW FACE BEGINNING TO END. RESPOND TO MIC. BE RESPECTFUL.**  
**USE APPROPRIATE DEVICE. USE REAL NAME. ENGAGE THE LEARNING.**  
**HAVE A CLEAR BACKGROUND. USE ACADEMIC LANGUAGE. PRIVATE  
MESSAGE TEACHER WITH ANY ISSUES. BE RESPONSIBLE.**  
**SPEAK UP IF YOU SEE SOMETHING HURTFUL OCCURING.**

### Required and Recommended Materials

#### Required

1. Notebook, pencils, paper
2. Newsela Account
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

#### Recommended

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### Grading Policy and Key Assignments/Projects

(weights, calculations, points for types of assignments: asynch, quizzes, presentations, projects, papers)

Grading will be based on

1) **Participation** (present, camera/mic on, responding to teacher direction),

2) **Engagement** (the quality and quality of participation).

3) **Completion:** amount of time spent on learning platforms (240 minutes of learning a day), how many assignments have been completed.

4) **Assessment** a) % correct on assignments. b) % increase in grade level scores, c) % correct on benchmark, quiz, test or project.

Points are earned for regular participation, engagement, completion are awarded in increments of 1 point per assignment. All work is due on the day indicated, no later than Friday of that week. Assessment points are earned in increments of 5 or 10 points.

Students unable to complete assignments will attend ELT at 2:15-3:30 with City Year M-Th, and Friday Advisory with Brooks until all work is completed.

Absences-for every day absent a student will be given two days to make up work. They are required to attend Friday advisory to make up synchronous work.

Grading Scale:

A+ 97-100% B+ 86-88% C+ 74-77 D+ 62-65 % F <53

A 93-96% B 82-85 % C 70-73 D 58-62 %

A- 89-92 % B- 78-81 % C- 66-69 D- 53-57 %

Extra Credit

1 Point Extra Credit will be earned for every tutoring session attended. Extra Credit will also be earned at the rate of 1 point for every extra assignment or hour spent on self paced lessons.

Late Work, Partial Credit.

Better Late than Never...As long as the assignment is within the grading period it will be accepted and credit will be earned. Students must be in continuous contact with teachers in order to receive help and credit..

# **GRADES-HOW DO I CHECK MY CHILD'S GRADES?**

## **CALIFICACIONES: ¿CÓMO VERIFICAR LAS CALIFICACIONES DE MI HIJO/HIJA?**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yKl9irdM-DP\\_4mb5eDc0B0wx5vLeg8999YcGKkv6P7Q/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yKl9irdM-DP_4mb5eDc0B0wx5vLeg8999YcGKkv6P7Q/edit)

### **Important Dates**

Friday is very important!! - Individualized teaching, enrichment, review, and tutoring 9:20-12:30. All assignments otherwise as noted are due Friday 11:30. Minimum Days- Winter 01/15 to 01/19 Spring 03/29 to 03/30 June 06/04,07,08.

Check Parent Square regularly and make sure your student attends all testing dates...

### **Office Hours/ Contact Info & Communication**

Google Classroom Codes: **Math** 2yejn4K    **Science** lwlqr5w    **Debate** 4rww23j -In addition to Parent Lesson Plans, all assignments are posted on Google Classroom.. Check individual platforms for details (Moby Max, Khan, Stemscopes)

Google Voice- 408-759-4042    District E-Mail [martin.brooks@arUSD.org](mailto:martin.brooks@arUSD.org)