

English IV: Competitive Forensics: Composition, Debate, and Public Speaking

Mehlville School District
English Language Arts
Grades 11 - 12, Duration 1 Year, 1 Credit

Rationale

Tomorrow's leaders need strong communication and critical thinking skills. Expanding beyond the classroom enhances the learning environment. Competitive forensics is a cross-curricular activity that fully prepares the student for research, writing, speaking and listening at the university level, and develops analysis of issues necessary in a functioning democracy.

Course Description

This year long course extends the depth and breadth of skills learned and practiced in public speaking and debate with frequent interscholastic competition, giving the student access to exercises and assessments in school districts across Missouri. The student will choose areas of focus within debate and speech. Forensic team participation is required, with a minimum of six tournaments and district competition. Assessment will be through unit projects, individual and group work, performance, and presentations. This course may be taken for college credit through the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites: Debate

Open to: 11, 12

Credit: 1 Unit - Two Semesters (Communication Arts credit)

This class may be repeated for additional elective credit.

Weighted: 0.75 (OHS only)

Course Objectives

1. The student will research and compose an original oratory, extemporaneous speeches on current events, an affirmative and a negative case, and a Student Congress bill with 85% accuracy as assessed on a scoring guide. (CA1, 3, 4, 5, 6; FA1; SS3; 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.8, 1.9, 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 4.2) (ACT CRS E1, E2, W1, W2, W3, W4, W5) (A+: Research)
2. The student will revise affirmative and negative cases throughout the year, and write new cases as needed for genres that change topics as assessed on a scoring guide. (ACT CRS W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, E2) (A+: Writing)
3. The student will be responsible for reading national and international periodicals and gathering information from note taking as well as from electronic and printed media with 85% accuracy as assessed on a scoring guide. (CA3, 4, 5; 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.8, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.7) (ACT CRS R1, R3, R5) (A+: Speaking)
4. The student will create and maintain extensive files from nonfiction sources for use in extemporaneous speaking and student congress debate as assessed on a scoring guide.
5. The student will find, read and "cut" a work of fiction suitable for use in competitive forensics with 85% accuracy. (ACT CRS R1, R5) (A+: Reading)
6. The student will apply analytical and argumentative skills and be able to identify logical fallacies with 85% accuracy as assessed on a scoring guide. (CA 5, 6; 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7)
7. The student will demonstrate time management and organizational techniques appropriate to tournament competition with 85% accuracy as assessed on a scoring guide. (CA 1, 4, 5, 6; 1.4, 1.8, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8)
8. The student will design and run a competitive forensic tournament with 85% accuracy as assessed on a scoring guide. (CA 4, 5, 6; FA1; 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.8, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7)
BOE 12-8-11