

Debate I, II, III Course Syllabus

Course Description/Goals:

These courses are designed to teach formalized argument, professional communication, presentation, persuasion, theoretical analysis, critical thinking and the examination of rhetoric. In Debate I, students will survey a variety of competitive speech and debate events while learning to communicate in various contexts, prepare formal presentations, and demonstrate effective group communication in both formal and informal settings. These courses will also emphasize intensive research skills, critical thinking, written communication and case construction through preparation for participation in interscholastic competition. Participation in speech/ debate contests and after school practices is expected each semester for students enrolled.

Course TEKS/Objectives:

Controversial issues arise in aspects of personal, social, public, and professional life in modern society. Debate and argumentation are widely used to make decisions and reduce conflict. Students who develop skills in argumentation and debate become interested in current issues, develop sound critical thinking, and sharpen communication skills. They acquire life-long skills for intelligently approaching controversial issues.

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ch110c.pdf>

Course Outline:

Semester 1	Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Impromptu Speaking- World School Debate- Congressional Debate- Research Techniques- Logic and Fallacy- Argumentation Theory- Counter Argument Strategy- Cross-Examination Debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Extemporaneous Speaking- Evidence Brief Construction- Lincoln-Douglas Debate- Multi-media Application and AI- Informative vs. Persuasive Speaking- Prose and Poetry Interpretation- Mock Trial