



## Speech and Debate 25-26 - 9-12 Syllabus

### Contact Information:

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class is designed to prepare students for competitive speaking and debating. Its goal is to improve students' skills in speaking, listening, composing, and reasoning through practical experiences and applications, especially during scheduled competitions. Students will develop skills in argumentation and debate; they will become interested in current issues, develop sound critical thinking, and sharpen communication skills. They will acquire life-long skills of public speaking and for intelligently approaching controversial issues and clashes of opinion. The course includes a concentration in parliamentary procedure, the techniques of persuasion, means of detecting propaganda and fallacies, and the refinement of voice and diction. It will feature an emphasis on forensics which will necessitate extensive practice and rehearsal in Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas debating as well as oral performances such as oral interpretations, extemporaneous speaking, congressional debating and speaking, and original oratories.

### COURSE ACTIVITIES

Below you will find descriptions of the most common activities that students will participate in during the course of each semester.

- Discussion
- Research
- Writing
- Revision
- Editing
- Mock Debates
- Practice/Drills of Speeches/Performances

### COMPETING AT TOURNAMENTS IS A REQUIREMENT - Here is more information relating to these requirements:

- We compete in UIL, Texas Forensics Association, and the National Speech & Debate Association circuits.
- There are 4 styles of debate and about 10 different speech events to choose from.

Congressional Debate	Informative Speech	Prose / Poetry
Lincoln-Douglas Debate	Original Oratory	Dramatic / Humorous
Policy (Cross-Ex) Debate	Extemporaneous Speech	DUO/Duet Acting
Public Forum Debate	Impromptu Speech	Program Oral Interp
World Schools Debate		

## **Speech and Debate 25-26 - 9-12**

### **Syllabus**

#### **When are Speech & Debate Tournaments?**

- Most tournaments are on Fridays/Saturdays. There will be a few that require us to travel on Thursdays or Fridays but those will be excused absences. There are typically 1-2 tournaments each month from September to March.
- Students must compete in at least 2 tournaments during the regular season.
- Students may pick and choose which tournaments to attend so that they can work around their personal schedules, as long as they meet the 2-tournament requirement.

#### **Is The Speech & Debate Team a Class?**

- Yes, students are enrolled in “Debate 1, 2, 3, or 4”.
- Students earn elective credit.

#### **If I Don't Do Well At Tournaments, Will I Fail The Class?**

- No, while you earn a large part of your class credit by competing at tournaments, you won't be penalized if you have a bad day.
- We focus on the willingness to learn and grow.

#### **Why Should I Stay in The Speech & Debate Class?**

- It's challenging and fun!
- You will become a much better public speaker!
- Research and analysis skills will improve!
- You'll make life-long friends and become more confident!
- You'll learn A LOT!

**Passing grades in ALL classes are required during tournament registration!**

#### **Course Materials:**

Too many to list due to the variety of events, but here is a sampling

- Scripts
- Briefs (Debate research)
- Various news websites
- NSDA (for voting on topics)
- Youtube of Debates/Performances(Past NSDA champions)



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### **Fundraising for Booster:**

Students will be responsible for fundraising a minimum of \$250.00 in sponsorships for the season to offset team competition costs like tournament registration, transportation, and hotel costs.

- These sponsorships are due in two parts coordinating with our Fall and Spring tournaments. October 17th, 2025 and February 6th, 2026
- Sponsorship payments must be submitted to Coach Johns, with checks made out to the “YWLA Speech and Debate” Booster. Receipts will be provided.
- Individuals/Families/Businesses can buy out the fundraising commitment as a personal/team sponsorship.