

CFISD Debate I Course Outline and Scope (2026-2027)

Course Overview

Gaining a general understanding of the major forms of debate, studying logic and reasoning and learning to prepare and present actual debates, oratories, and extemporaneous speeches, are the objectives of this course in argumentation. Participation in competitive speech and debate events is a requirement for this class. Students involved in speech/debate competitions may be required to work after school to prepare. Preparation time will be limited to 8 hours per week on Monday through Thursday. After 2:30 on Friday, there is no limit on the number of hours students may work. Speech competitions are held on Friday evening and Saturday. Student fees for tournament competition are required.

TEKS

[HS Debate TEKS: \(110.60\)](#)

First Semester (65 Days)

Unit 1: Debate Ethics & Team Expectations

Major Skills

Team building, class & tournament procedures, developing confidence & civility

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
A.1, A.2, A.3,A.4	5	N/A	Aug. 12 – 18, 2026

Unit 2: Beginning Argumentation

Major Skills

Debate formats, understanding resolutions, analyzing controversial issues & philosophies, contention structure (claim-warrant-impact), credible evidence & citation, writing affirmative/pro & negative/con positions

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
A, B.6, B.2.A-D,B.3.f	36	N/A	Aug. 19 – Oct. 8, 2026

Unit 3: Beginning Refutation

Major Skills

Debate note-taking method (flowing), cross-examination, rebuttals, logic, time management, judge/audience adaptation, practice & formal performances, peer critique/coaching.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
B.8.A-D	20	N/A	Oct. 19 – Nov. 16, 2026

Unit 4: Public Speaking

Major Skills

Topic brainstorming, grabbing & maintaining attention, idea organization & support devices, verbal & nonverbal delivery, researching current events & social issues

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
B.9.A-D	19	Fall Semester TEKS Test	Nov. 17 – Dec. 18, 2026

Second Semester (92 Days)

Unit 5: Advanced Argumentation, Case Construction, & Refutation

Major Skills

Developing frameworks & burdens of proof, constructing blocks & briefs, line-by-line response & improving clash, crystallization & voting issues

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
B.7.A-C	23	N/A	Jan. 6 – Feb. 6, 2026

Unit 6: UIL Preparation

Major Skills

Differences in leagues & event rules, developing competition ready presentations, practice & formal performance, critique & revision

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
B.9, B.10	18	N/A	Feb. 9 – March 6, 2026

Unit 7: Democratic Processes & Role in Society

Major Skills

Examination of advocacy in historical and contemporary contexts/mediums; analyzing value assumptions in personal, social, & political conflicts; logic & persuasion

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
B.1.A-C B.2.A.ii B.3.A-B B.5.A-C	24	N/A	March 16 – April 20, 2026

Unit 8: Transitioning from Novice to Varsity

Major Skills

Preparation of final formal performance in independent workshop format, project organization & time management, self-evaluation & goal setting.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
	27	N/A	April 21 – May 28, 2026