

CFISD Debate II-IV 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. Debate II-IV builds on the fundamentals and continues to develop speech and debate skills. Courses must be taken in sequence, and students must have the recommendation of the debate teacher to enroll in levels II-IV. 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

Building relationships, class & tournament procedures, etiquette.

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

Unit 2: Communication Foundations Review

Major Skills

Audience adaptation, verbal & nonverbal delivery, listening.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
	4	N/A	Aug. 19 – 24, 2026

Unit 3: Research Foundations Review

Major Skills

Source types, evidence validity and representation, author intent, proper citation

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
	5	N/A	Aug. 25 – 31, 2026

Unit 4: Argumentation Development & Speech Process

Major Skills

Students engage in ongoing analysis of controversial social issues as they prepare to perform in different formats for a variety of audiences: Organizing ideas logically, conducting credible research, writing & revising presentations, understanding opposing views, developing effective strategies to support and refute claims, participating in practice exercises & peer coaching, speaking in academic & public settings, applying judging criteria. Students will have ongoing opportunities to prepare and demonstrate their speech/debate skills at competitive tournaments for the real-world, community audiences.

Last updated: July 2026

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Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
	67		Sept. 1 – Dec. 18, 2026

Second Semester (93 Days)

Unit 5: Progression of Argumentation Development & Speech Process

Major Skills

Students engage in ongoing analysis of controversial social issues as they prepare to perform in different formats of a variety of audiences: Organizing ideas logically, conducting credible research, writing and revising presentations, understanding opposing views, developing effective strategies to support and refute claims, participating in practice exercises and peer coaching, speaking in academic and public settings, applying judging criteria.

Students will have ongoing opportunities to prepare and demonstrate their speech/debate skills at competitive tournaments for real-world, community audiences. Students also will complete in-class, presentation-based projects.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
	46	N/A	Jan. 5 – March 11, 2026

Unit 6: Leadership & Intrapersonal Reflection

Major Skills

Mentoring novice debaters, developing training materials, ballot evaluation & self-critique, setting improvement goals, assignment of team officer positions, banquet planning.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
	47	N/A	March 22 – May 27, 2027