Debate 1 & 2 SYLLABUS

Kempner High School, Fall 2022 & Spring 2023

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**This course serves as an introduction to the world of competitive speech and debate. Throughout this course, the student will learn the basics of various speech and debate events, develop their public speaking and argumentation skills, and discover proper research protocols, all while working in a team environment.**

**Organization:** The course will, by necessity, have a fluid organizational structure dependent on the needs of the individual and the team as a whole at any given time. Instruction will at most times be either instructor- or peer-led, with frequent and required performative evaluations throughout. Besides argumentation and public speaking, knowledge and understanding of current events will be a focal point throughout the course as well, with weekly opportunity for students to showcase their knowledge of the world around them. At the conclusion of the first and third grading periods, there will be a high-level review and test over various new concepts and terms from throughout the grading period.

**Objectives:** After successful completion of the course, the learner will: 1. Gain confidence in their public speaking abilities; 2. Understand and be able to perform proper research techniques; 3. Be able to, of their own accord, keep current on important events in their city, state, country, and world; and, 4. Compete and succeed at local, state, and national speech and debate tournaments.

**Grades:**

* Minor (in-class participation, research checks, speech outlines, etc.): 40
* Major: (concept tests, projects, speeches, tournament participation, etc.): 60%

**PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Any time you take someone else’s work and attempt to pass it off as your own, that is considered plagiarism. This includes copying and pasting something from the internet. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. In this class, you will be writing fairly often; please do not fall victim to the temptation of passing someone else’s work off as your own. If you are caught stealing someone else’s work, you will receive a zero on the assignment, as well as additional consequences. If you are using material that is not your original thought or common knowledge, it should always be cited. We will also discuss copyright and copyright infringement in this class, which is also a form of theft and dishonesty.

**CLASSROOM/LAB EXPECTATIONS:**

* Keep all food and drinks out of the classroom.
* There will be frequent opportunities for the student to speak in front of their classmates during the course of the year; this is not optional, but every effort will be taken to ensure the student is comfortable in this environment.
* At times, topics debated in class or at tournaments may be controversial in nature. Regardless of a student’s personal beliefs or opinions, the beliefs and opinions of others should be respected in-class and out.
* The Internet is only to be used for education-based purposes. Please do not play games, and do not use a proxy server. That will damage the computer.
* Participation in Speech and Debate club and tournaments is highly encouraged.

**TUTORIALS:** Tutorials will be held Tuesday after school. I can be available other days, but you will need to schedule with me.

Please sign in your classes schoology course.