



High School Debate 9-12 Syllabus

Course Goals

1 Public Speaking

Students get practice in public speaking through mock debates, public speaking drills, and public speaking games. Students partake in some form of public speaking each day.

2 Argument Construction

Students learn the basics of argument construction: The assertion states the argument, the evidence is the supporting details, the link states why the evidence proves the assertion, and the impact states why the argument is important if it is correct. Students view good and bad arguments and learn how to put their arguments together into a case.

3 Using Evidence

Students learn how to locate and use evidence.

Course Topics

1 Practice

Students get practical experience in Public Forum Debate.

2 Argumentation

Students learn the basics of argument construction.

3 Evidence

Students utilize effective research techniques to gather and critically analyze evidence.

4 Public Speaking

Students practice public speaking techniques through activities, drills, and mock debates.

5 Impacts

Students learn how to debate impacts and what the importance of impacts in evaluating debates.

6 Strategy

Students learn general debate strategy and how to evaluate debates.

7 Logical Reasoning

Students learn logical structures and apply them properly in a debate.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Introduction

Students introduce themselves.

Argument Construction

Students will learn the basics of argument construction. Each argument consists of four parts. The assertion states the argument. The evidence is the supporting details. The link states why the evidence proves the assertion. The impact states why the argument is important if it is correct. Students will view good and bad arguments and learn how to put their arguments together into a case.

Practice Debate

Students get practice with arguing a topic.

Topic Introduction

Students introduce themselves topic which they will research and debate throughout the course.

Day 2

Warmup

Students start each day with a warm-up question reviewing the day before.

Evidence

Students examine types of evidence and their respective strengths and weaknesses.

Effective Research

Students learn effective research techniques and discuss how to evaluate sources.

Extemporaneous debate

Students use what they learned about evidence and research to put together a short case and debate it.

Work on Final Debates

Students get time to work on final debates.

Day 3

Warmup

Students start each day with a warm-up question reviewing the day before.

Logical Structures

Students learn the basics of formal and informal logic.

Links

Students use their knowledge of logic to understand links.

Necessary vs. Sufficient Conditions

Students learn the difference between necessary and sufficient conditions and how these are used in debates.

Public Speaking Drills

Students practice their public speaking through drills and games.

Work on Final Debates

Students get time to work on final debates.

Day 4

Warmup

Students start each day with a warm-up question reviewing the day before.

Impacts

Students learn how to construct impacts.

Topic Discussion

Students discuss what they have learned in their research.

Work on Final Debates

Students get time to work on final debates.

Day 5**Warmup**

Students start each day with a warm-up question reviewing the day before.

Types of Rebuttals

Students learn about how to effectively refute an argument.

Using Rebuttals

Students learn practical tips for deploying rebuttal strategies.

Mock Debates

Students engage in practice debate rounds on the topic they have been preparing.

Day 6**Warmup**

Students start each day with a warm-up question reviewing the day before.

Example Debate

Students watch and analyze a sample debate.

Debate Strategy

Students learn and discuss debate strategy.

Mock Debates

Students engage in practice debate rounds on the topic they have been preparing.

Day 7**Crossfire**

Students discuss and practice crossfire.

Notetaking in Debate

The students learn "flowing" or the art of taking fast notes on their opponents.

Mock Debates

Students engage in practice debate rounds on the topic they have been preparing.

Day 8**Warmup**

Students start each day with a warm-up question reviewing the day before.

Frameworks

Students discuss types of frameworks and how they are used in debates.

Public Speaking Drills

Students practice their public speaking through drills and games.

Mock Debates

Students engage in practice debate rounds on the topic they have been preparing.

Day 9

Warmup

Students start each day with a warm-up question reviewing the day before.

Debating Ethics.

Students debate Jury Nullification to practice debating ethical frameworks.

Debating Philosophy

Students extend their discussion of frameworks to learn about ethical frameworks and Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

Day 10

Final Debates

Students engage in final debates based on the topic they have been preparing.

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