



## Elementary Debate 5-6 Syllabus

### Course Goals

#### 1 Debate Techniques

Students learn how to tactfully debate relevant issues with one another.

#### 2 Research

Students learn the value of research in preparing for a debate.

#### 3 Evidence

Students learn how to craft an argument with evidence to support their assertions.

### Course Topics

#### 1 Introduction to Debate

Students learn the rules of debates and about the Middle School Public Debate Program.

#### 2 Public Speaking

Students learn how to develop effective public speaking skills.

#### 3 Affirmative Argumentation

Students learn how to tactfully argue their point of view, using reasoning and evidence.

#### 4 Rebuttal

Students learn how to respond to an argument from the opposing side in a debate.

#### 5 Note Taking

Students learn how to effectively take notes on the points each speaker in a debate makes.

#### 6 Word Choice

Students learn the importance of word choice in strengthening their arguments.

#### 7 Research

Students learn techniques to conduct quality research on a given topic.

#### 8 Metaphor

Students learn how to use metaphors to strengthen their arguments in a debate.

#### 9 Conduct a Debate

Students work in groups to develop arguments and organize research to participate in a full-length debate.

#### 10 Presentation of Research

Students learn how to present research they have gathered on a given topic.

## Course Schedule

### Day 1

#### Introduction to Debate

Students learn the general structure of debates, particularly the Middle School Public Debate Program format.

#### Public Speaking

Students learn techniques to improve their public speaking abilities.

### Day 2

#### Affirmative Argumentation

Students learn how to argue their point of view in a debate using reasoning and evidence.

#### Debate Exercise 1

Students participate in their first debate on a pertinent topic.

### Day 3

#### Rebuttal Skills

Students learn how to argue against a particular point of view in a tactful manner.

#### Team Member Roles

Students learn the roles of each member on a debate team.

#### Debate Exercise 2

Students participate in another debate using the new skills they have learned.

### Day 4

#### Flow Charts

Students learn how to use flow charts to take notes on an opponent's argument.

#### Tactful Criticism

Students learn how to criticize an opponent's argument in a respectful manner.

#### Word Choice

Students learn how their choice of wording affects the power of their speech.

#### Debate Exercise 3

Students hold another debate to practice the techniques they have learned, particularly in regards to word choice.

### Day 5

#### Research

Students learn effective research techniques that can be used to prepare for debates.

### **Final Debate Overview**

Students begin preparing for two formal debates which will take place on the last day of the program.

### **Debate Exercise 4**

Students participate in another debate to practice the skills they have learned throughout the week.

## **Day 6**

### **Metaphors**

Students learn how skilled speakers make references to classical mythology to enhance their imagery.

### **Impacts**

Students learn how to persuade a judge by arguing that the outcome of their position is more desirable than that of the opponent's position.

### **Debate Exercise 5**

Students hold a debate to practice the concepts they have learned, particularly how they address the impacts of their arguments.

## **Day 7**

### **Research Presentation**

Students present the research they have found for the upcoming final debates.

### **Debate Exercise 6**

Students participate in a debate, practicing the skills they have learned previously.

## **Day 8**

### **Final Debate Preparation (Topic 1)**

Students prepare each side of one of the debates they will hold on the final day of class.

### **Debate Exercise 7**

Students participate in a debate to practice the skills they have previously learned

## **Day 9**

### **Final Debate Preparation (Topic 2)**

Students prepare each side of the other debate they will participate in on the final day of the class.

### **Debate Exercise 8**

Students participate in a debate to review the skills they have learned throughout the class.

## **Day 10**

### **Final Debate 1**

Students debate a topic after a week of preparation and research.

**Final Debate 2**

Students participate in another debate which they have spent the past week researching and preparing for.

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