

Debate Class Ms. Lane

Introduction:

“He who establishes his argument by noise and command shows that his reason is weak.”
–Michel de Montaigne

Welcome to Debate class! I am really looking forward to getting to know you all this semester. We will be covering a variety of topics this year, and the exciting thing is that the majority of the topics we investigate will be chosen by *you* and your classmates. I want to stress the importance of getting to know your classmates in an appropriate way as this will aid us all in the ability to be respectful and thoughtful while debating issues that may be sensitive to some or all. Be prepared to bring the information you learn from other classes, your friends and families, and the news into class so that we can have lively and *informed* discussions together.

Things You Need:

- **Your EHS-Assigned Device** ~ We will be doing research from time to time, and you will be required to produce a number of documents that are specific to this class, so having your device charged and ready for use every day will be most beneficial.
- **Writing Utensils/Notebook/Text Book** ~ During lecture days or days we work straight from the book, I expect students to take detailed notes. You are also expected to bring your text book on these days. Although everyone's writing process is different, you **are** expected to participate meaningfully in this process. Further, these notes should be generated by you. Research shows that people who write what they both see and hear are more likely to make meaningful connections and also to remember what they have covered.
- **An Open Mind** ~ This class is designed to give you a hands-on opportunity to explore some of the most current issues occurring both locally and globally. Please allow yourself the opportunity to listen to all sides of an issue. You'll appreciate that courtesy when your time comes to share the issue that means the most to you.

Goals for the Semester:

“It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it.”
–Joseph Joubert

At the end of the semester students of Debate will be able to:

- Use parliamentary procedure to debate topics
- Engage in debates with appropriate argument strategies
- Identify fallacies within presentations of material
- Ethically prepare for a debate
- Write their own bills and resolutions
- Present their ideas and research in both impromptu and planned formats
- Research support for arguments and current events with credible sources
- Appropriately cite sources within their arguments
- Distinguish basic differences between civil and criminal cases
- Utilize basic vocabulary related to debate and current practices in law

Units We Will Cover This Semester:

- **An Introduction to Debate**
 - History of Debate
 - Ethics of Debate
- **Student Congress** (5-6 weeks)
- **Mock Trial** (5 weeks)
- **Miscellaneous**
 - Lincoln-Douglas Debate
 - Team Debate
 - Logical Fallacies