



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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