

Debate Class

Instructor: Matthew Qiu

Course Description

This course will be conducted online and students will learn the fundamental aspects of debate. Foundational skills will be introduced and students will develop proper argument formation and how to identify and refute common logical fallacies. The format and style of competitive debate in high school will also be introduced in order to let students get a grasp on how the things they learn in this course will become applicable and used in competitive debate. There will also be a strong emphasis on fostering acute research skills that allow students to engage, understand, and analyze complex and literature from journal publications. Strong writing skills and analysis of texts will be paramount to incorporate. Mastery of these various different techniques will manifest in one's public speaking and ability to engage in constructive debate and discussion. Drills and practice debates will be weaved throughout the units.

Course Goals

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Utilize critical thinking skills to analyze sources, evidence, and research papers
- Develop nuanced and sophisticated argumentation to defend a stance
- Engage in public speaking with finesse
- Use portable skills from debate in real-life applications

Curriculum

❖ **Unit 1: Introduction to Debate**

- What is Debate
- Why Do We Do It
- Background Information

❖ **Unit 2: Research Skills and Topic Lectures**

- Topic Lectures on the Resolution
- How to Research Efficiently and Effectively
- What is Good Evidence

❖ **Unit 3: Argument Formation**

- Components of an Argument
- Logic and Fallacies
- Incorporating Evidence

❖ **Unit 4: How to Respond to Arguments**

- Critiquing Evidence
- Comparative Analysis
- Refutations and Rebuttals

❖ **Unit 5: Speaking and Speech Construction**

- Tone and Speech Rhythm
- Persuasion
- Organizing a Speech