Debate Syllabus – Instructor: Holly Sutherland

SCCHS 2017-2018

Debate is an elective designed to develop students’ verbal and intellectual skills. In short, this class is supposed to make you a more confident speaker and thinker. In order to accomplish this, students will learn about, and practice, the fundamental skill of speech and debate. Students will listen to an occasional lecture on speech and debate topics/techniques, discuss current events and issues, practice debating and speaking in class, and will have the opportunity to engage in both formal and informal debates.

What is the goal of this class?

* Students will show growth and progress over the semester in their ability to see complexity when looking at issues.
* Students will improve their ability to speak, debate, and listen in an informed, polite, and persuasive manner.
* Students will learn the value of thinking independently and coming to their own conclusions.

What will the work load be?

* Students will have a weekly notebook consisting of vocabulary, reading articles, graphic organizers, etc.
* Students will occasionally have quizzes on argumentative terms.
* Students will have a variety of collaborative activities.
* There will be approximately 4 FORMAL debates throughout the course of the school year, but several mini-debates and impromptu arguments, speeches, and seminars.

What do I need for this class?

* You will need a pretty sturdy binder and paper.
* The weekly notebooks will be hole-punched and should be kept in your binder until they are turned in on Fridays.
* You need pens, pencils, and highlighters. Either pens or pencils is fine; use your preferred writing utensil.
* You may bring in copy paper or other supplies (paper towels, tissues, etc) for BONUS points. (1 pack = 10 points on a low grade, max 3 packs/quarter)
* **This elective course has a $15 fee**. This is required due to the fact that we have no textbooks and will use a large amount of copies and paper. Please pay this as soon as possible.

What do I have to do in this class?

* PARTICIPATE. This class requires speaking informally and formally along with assorted group activities.
* You will have a participation grade which requires not only doing your work, but also being respectful and mindful that it is okay to disagree. You will lose points if you are unruly or disrespectful to the teacher OR your peers.

How will I be graded in this class?

* The student’s grade each nine weeks will be averaged on the basis of the number of points earned divided by the total number of points possible.
* Grades will come from a variety of different activities, including debates, quizzes, writing assignments, classwork, homework, and participation.

**Class Rules and Classroom Procedures:**

Appropriate behavior and respect for others is key to student success and learning. Students who are tardy, disruptive, disrespectful to others, or in any way impeding the learning process in my classroom will experience one or more of the following consequences: verbal warning, student conference, parental contact, referral to Assistant Principal, or Principal referral.

Students are expected to follow all district and school policies as stated in their student handbook and posted in the classroom.

1. Be respectful!
2. No getting out of your seats and roaming the room. The bell does not dismiss you; I do.
3. No violent words or actions against another person/group – even those not in the room.
4. You may have food/drinks in Ms. Sutherland’s class, unless you get messy!!
5. **Restroom/Hall Pass Policy**:

* Students will have three (3) restroom passes PER NINE WEEKS.
* That is twelve (12) passes for the entire year.
* Please use these wisely.
* If they are used up in the first week of the grading period, the student will not be given more until the new grading period begins.
* Ms. Sutherland will mark these passes next to the student’s name in her grade book.
* Anyone with medical needs should bring a parent/doctor note to Ms. Sutherland.

1. **Cell Phone Policy (BYOD!):** 
   1. Use of cell phones and text messaging devices are prohibited during class time if I find such use disruptive to the class.
   2. I expect there will be times when we use devices for research and assignments.
   3. Be smart. Use etiquette and manners.
   4. During an exam, your cell phone should be stored securely in such a way that it cannot be seen or used.
   5. The visible presence of such a device during an exam may result in a zero for the exam and is considered de facto evidence of cheating.

**Academic Honesty**

* Cheating on any activity, assignment, or test will result in a grade of ZERO for all parties involved. Plagiarism will also result in a ZERO.
* During a quiz, talking = cheating. NO TALKING/NO PHONES
* You are responsible for ensuring that anything you borrow is properly cited. In addition to direct quotes, plagiarism also includes the paraphrasing of ideas or passages from a text without documentation, the inclusion from a text of information not known to the general public without documentation, and the following of the structure or style of a secondary source without documentation. If you are *at all* confused, you may wish to consult resources on plagiarism available in the MLA handbook or visit http://owl.english.purdue.edu/.
* Punishment for any form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will range from failure (0) on the assignment(s) in question to dismissal from the course.

**Make-Up Work Policy:**

You are expected to do your work on time. Keeping up with your workload will be difficult enough, but ***it’s easier to keep up than to catch up***. In the rare event that you miss class, please adhere to the make-up work policies listed in the student handbook for St. Clair County.

DO NOT LOSE YOUR SYLLABUS! YOU WILL NEED THIS PAPER!

Questions? Feel free to e-mail Ms. Sutherland at [holly.sutherland@sccboe.org](mailto:holly.sutherland@sccboe.org). This syllabus must be kept in the student’s notebook or binder and when the contract sheet is returned with a parent/guardian signature, it is worth 25 points.

\*\*\*To view the syllabus: Go to scchs.sccboe.org; click “school staff”; select Holly Sutherland, then click on my forms at the top of the page ☺

**Syllabus Signature Sheet**

I acknowledge that I have read the syllabus for Debate. I understand the content of this syllabus and acknowledge that I am responsible for adhering to class rules and procedures. If I choose not to meet these expectations, I am willing to accept the consequences. I also understand I have a $15 class fee.

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Student Signature Date

I acknowledge that I have read the syllabus for Debate. I understand the content of this syllabus and acknowledge that my child is responsible for adhering to class rules and procedures. If he/she chooses not to meet these expectations, I am willing to support the teacher in her commitment to carry out the aforementioned/school policy consequences. I also acknowledge that my child will be reading a variety of news articles and essay as well as debating controversial issues. Some of these topics may involve various mature themes.

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date

**Parent Information (to be filled out by parent/guardian):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Other important information:

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