

Mr. Dickson's Syllabus

Debate

(Save to your USB Flash Drive for future reference)

WELCOME TO DEBATE! I am very pleased to have each of you in my debate class offered at Caddo Mills High School. Below is a description of the course from TEA's Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills:

“Controversial issues arise in aspects of personal, social public, and professional life in modern society. Debate and argumentation are widely used to make decisions and reduce conflict. Students who develop skills in argumentation and debate become interested in current issues, develop sound critical thinking, and sharpen communication skills. They acquire life-long skills for intelligently approaching controversial issues.”

I. CLASSROOM RULES: *(follow these rules and you're in for a great year)*

1. **LISTEN ACTIVELY**, with your mind, eyes and whole body by focusing on whomever “has the floor.” When the teacher is speaking **LISTEN** with your whole body.
2. **RESPECT ALL OTHERS** in the room by using appropriate language at **ALL** times and listening when others “have the floor.”
3. **ARRIVE** to class **ON TIME**. The tardy policy outlined in your student code of conduct will be followed.
4. **NO FOOD OR DRINK IN CLASS!**
5. **BE PREPARED:** Consistent lack of preparation can and will affect your grade. Have your supplies!
6. **Cell phones and other technological devices** are NOT to be utilized in class for any reason unless specifically asked to utilize the device for educational purposes *at the teacher's discretion*. **Cell phones observed or used when not authorized will be confiscated.**

II. ACADEMIC STUFF *(follow these guidelines and you will have an exceptional year)*

1. **GRADES:** Grades in this course are weighted.

Homework, Daily Work, Quizzes = **40%**

Tests, Tournament Participation = **60%**

2. **LATE WORK AND ABSENCES:** Assignments not turned in by the assigned due date are considered incomplete assignments. There will be a penalty of 10 points the first class day late, and then an additional 10 point penalty assigned per class day thereafter.

3. **MAKEUP WORK:** All work that was missed due to an **excused absence** will be made up. It is your responsibility to contact me for your makeup assignment. At that time I will set a new due date. (At this point the late work policy shall be in effect).
4. **TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION:** You will be required to attend a minimum of 3 tournaments (1 per nine weeks is the minimum for the first three nine-week grading periods). Students may and are encouraged to attend more than the minimum. These tournaments are considered debate labs and considered test grades. The grade is not determined based on results at the tournament.
5. **DRESS CODE:** For tournaments, the dress code is business attire. I will discuss this more detail in a debate handbook.
6. **KEEP EVERYTHING!**
7. **TUTORIALS:** Will be offered on Monday from 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm. Additional times are available to the student upon request.
8. **BE PREPARED with Your Own SUPPLIES** (All of these supplies are generally sold at Office Depot / Office Max)
 - a. **One 1.5"-2" 3 ring binder:** For paper, handouts and tournament ballots.
 - b. **Loose-leaf Notebook Paper:** No paper will be accepted that is ripped from a spiral.
 - c. **Composition Notebook:** 80-100 sheets
 - d. **Ink Pens** for work: Black or Blue. No other colors.
 - e. **16 GB USB Flash Drive**
 - f. **1 Ream of 500 sheets of Xerox® Sky Blue Color Paper, 8 1/2" x 11", 20 Lb**
 - g. **1 Ream of 500 sheets of Xerox® Pink Color Paper, 8 1/2" x 11", 20 Lb** (This is
 - h. **1 black Mini 1" Round Ring binder**
 - i. **2 Packages of 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" inch mini sheet protectors**
 - j. **NOTE:** It is imperative that you bring all of these supplies consistently. Being prepared is part of your grade.
9. Student and Parents are requested to sign up for Debate Reminders and Information by texting @cm4n6 to 81010.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Debate Coach / Instructor
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Caddo Mills, TX 75135
School Phone: 903-527-3164

STUDENT AND PARENT SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____ (student printed name), have read the above syllabus and understand the rules and requirements for Debate. I am aware of the required materials, grading policy, class rules, and absence policy, and intend to follow them along with the CMHS Student Code of Conduct. I understand that my choice to not follow the above mentioned policies and rules could affect my success in this class.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

I, _____ (parent/guardian printed name), have read the above syllabus and understand the rules and requirements for Debate. I am aware of the required materials, grading policy, class rules, absence policy, and the CMHS Student Code of Conduct and the expectations my student is to follow. I understand that the teacher is available for conferences by appointment but will return an email as soon as possible. I understand that the student will be using the internet and that CMISD policies will be followed.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Contact Information:

Phone/s: _____

E-Mail Address: _____