

# Debate I & Advanced Debate II, II, IV

Mr. Stowe ● Montgomery High School  
cstowe@misd.org ● Room B102

## Course Description:

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. This course is recommended for students in grades 9-12 (Texas Education Agency, 2010).

Students enrolled in this course are required to practice after school each week and compete in extra-curricular competitions. Practices are from 3pm-5pm M/W for Debate 1 and T/Th for Advanced Debate. Students are required to attend 2 tournaments each of the first four 6-week grading periods, for a total of 8 tournaments. Projects and other major assignments may take the place of tournaments in the post-season. Students must maintain academic eligibility under the UIL's No Pass; No Play rule.

## Supplies:

Each student will need a laptop computer, a wireless mouse, internet access, tournament attire, a digital timer, a composition book, and writing supplies. Other supplies may be required throughout the year. Information about the required membership fee found in the MHS Debate Team Handbook.

Each student will also need a physical copy of The Exceptional Presenter by Tim Koegel, ISBN: 978-1929774449. This is our 1<sup>st</sup> book study of the semester.

## Handbook and Communication:

Students and their parents/guardians should review the MHS Debate Handbook. The Handbook can be located at [www.christopherstowe.com/debate/forms](http://www.christopherstowe.com/debate/forms).

MHS has also adopted a new policy regarding coaches/sponsors/directors communicating with students. Text messaging has allowed us to communicate quickly and efficiently about changes in practice or tournament schedules. Parents must sign the attached form, which will be kept on file with the principal, to allow a sponsor to text message a student. No one-to-one text messages can be sent between the hours of 8pm and 7am, and messages will be pertinent to the activity of debate. Students should be respectful of these hours as well, and understand that they will not receive a response until 7am.

## Grading and Assignments:

Grades will be based on the following scale: 40% competition and tournament participation; 30% projects, speeches, and quizzes; 30% daily grades, practice attendance, and in-class assignments.

Students will receive one tournament participation grade for being on-time and staying until the conclusion of the awards ceremony. They will also receive a competition grade based on the number of NFL points earned in competition. This later grade will not be lower than 70- unless the student no-shows or forfeits. The grade will depend on the number of points earned versus the total points possible. Each scheduled practice is worth one daily grade.

Debate class/practice is not a place to do homework for other classes, nor is it a place to play games on the computer. To combat this problem, students violating this policy will receive a zero for the day's grade/practice session, and may be asked to leave.

## Signature and Acknowledgement:

I have read the syllabus and the 2013-2014 MHS Debate Team Handbook. I agree to abide by all of the rules and procedures found in these documents.

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Student Signature & Date

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Parent Signature & Date