

AIM Academy Online Speech and Debate

COURSE SYLLABUS

Teacher: Lisa Bedinger Duckworth

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Course Description

This semester-long Speech and Debate course is an introduction to public speaking and argumentation. It is designed to teach oral, written, visual, and non-verbal skills, critical thinking, analyzing documents, research, persuasion, and argumentation. In this course, students will learn several speech presentation styles, including:

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| ☐ Humorous | ☐ Process Informative |
| ☐ Narrative | |
| ☐ Impromptu | |
| ☐ Persuasive | ☐ Storytelling |

This course will also teach students several debate styles, including some of the following:

- ☐ Congressional
- ☐ Lincoln-Douglas
- ☐ Public Forum
- ☐ Policy Debate
- ☐ Extemporaneous

This course aims to help the student become a more proficient public speaker and presenter. This course aims to help students become more comfortable in their individual speaking styles and teach them how to research and engage in debate effectively and respectfully over a wide range of topics.

Content Warning: All speech and debate topics will be subject to final approval. However, since this is a speech and debate class, there may be some instances of potentially controversial issues.

Supplies Required

- ☐ 3-Ring Binder
- ☐ loose-leaf paper
- ☐ Pencils, pens, and a highlighter
- ☐ Post-it Notes
- ☐ Index Cards

Technology Requirements

- High-speed, broadband Internet
- Sound card and microphone (for live sessions)
- Streaming video capabilities to watch video lectures and other videos as assigned
- Computer
- Scanning Capabilities (phone, iPad, tablet, or scanner)
- Printer
- Microsoft or Google Products Access (MS Word, MS Excel, Google Docs, Google Sheets, PowerPoint or Google Slides)

Parent Communication

Parents and Students may contact me through Canvas. I will respond within 48 hours to all communications. Please do not hesitate to contact me or ask questions.

Course Structure

Course Structure: This course will cover two central units: Introduction to Speech (Public Speaking) and Introduction to Debate (Argumentation). Each week, a new topic will be introduced, either in a type of speech or a debate style. I use a flipped classroom, so students will use videos, video lectures, and web links to learn about the topics. Live classes will mostly be for speech-making and debating sessions. Outside class, work will consist of practicing topic skills, learning vocabulary, researching speech and debate topics, analyzing documents, and outside readings. Students should expect to do 2-3 hours on assignments per week. Most assignments will be due weekly, with some having longer due dates.

In addition, there will be quizzes on the topic material, including vocabulary, and a cumulative test will be given at the end of each unit. Students will complete most assessments on Canvas.

Grading and Expectations

- Student progress will be assessed through assignments that may include, but are not limited to, vocabulary and topic quizzes, unit tests, homework, speeches, debates, projects, and participation.
- Total points will be computed for all graded assignments.
- Students should expect to spend about 2-3 hours outside of the live class practicing and reviewing skills taught in the class. Researching topics, supporting material, and analysis of documents will also be a significant part of a student's homework assignments. Speech practice is of the utmost importance in enhancing one's ability to deliver a speech. Speech practice is a required part of this course.
- Students will receive a progress report at the end of the semester. Parent conferences are available upon request.
- All grades will be available in Canvas for students and parents.
- Unless otherwise specified, assignments will be graded within one week of the due date.

Expectations

- **Be respectful** to me, yourself, and other students in your words, actions, and attitudes.
- **Be diligent** and put your best effort into your classwork and homework to master the material.
- **Be prepared** by completing the homework and being present in class physically and mentally. Practice outside of class time will be essential to the student's success.
- **Be proactive** by asking questions and seeking out help.
- **Be engaged** in the class activities.
- **Be clear** in your speeches and arguments. It is essential to be understood and be understanding.
- **Be a good listener** and be open to opposing viewpoints.
- **Be supportive and encouraging** to your classmates as they share their thoughts and opinions.
- **Be positive** and thoughtful in your critiques of yourself and others, and utilize constructive criticism.