California State University, Northridge  
Summer Academic Enrichment Program  

Speech and Debate - Middle School

Course Overview:  
Over the next five weeks, students will learn the techniques for building and delivering a successful speech. Students will engage in delivering speeches, as well as participating in formal and informal debates. In addition, students will have the necessary skills to critique, analyze and question speeches and debates delivered by others.

Course Description: This course will develop and improve public speaking, argumentative, and critical-thinking skills in communication settings. Students will prepare and deliver speeches and participate in several of in-class debates and forums on current topics. Techniques will be taught to control speech anxiety, and structure and organize information to present to a variety of audiences. As such, the fundamentals of physical and vocal delivery skills, use of language and gesturing, as well as listening skills will be learned. Please note that time requirements are given for each speech.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. Goal: To research and deliver various speeches including, but not limited to: impromptu; commemorative; educational; and persuasive.  
   
   Objective: Deliver an impromptu speech—one where a speaker is given a topic and then presents a speech within minutes.

   Objective: Research and deliver a commemorative speech—one where the speech is based upon important incidents in history.

   Objective: Research and deliver an educational speech—one which gives information on topics which were researched.

   Objective: Research and deliver a persuasive speech—one which has the intent of changing the audience’s opinion on a specific subject.

2. Goal: To research and participate in debates using various methods, including: the Lincoln/Douglas / Four Corner / Town Hall method.  
   
   Objective: Research and participate in a Lincoln/Douglas [presidential] debate format.

   Objective: Research and participate in a Four Corner debate format—one which forces the speaker to take a stand on a position prior to the beginning of the debate.

3. Goal: To critique, analyze and pose questions using the specific listening techniques presented in class.  
   
   Objective: Introduce the techniques used by great speakers in history including John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.
**Course Materials:**
1. One subject spiral notebook with perforated paper for easy tear off
2. A pack of index cards
3. Black pens
4. Highlighter(s)

**Course Grading**

**In-Class/Homework Expectations**
The student will work on speech preparation in class after learning the various techniques on how to do so. Homework will be given once or twice a week and will consist of readings (provided) and/or speech preparation sheets which help students with speech preparation. Below is the grading scale which gives a percentage breakdown of how students are graded in the speech and debate class.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class speeches</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech preparation sheets</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classwork/Homework</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer evaluations</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Policy:**

- **A** = 90%-100%
- **B** = 80%-89%
- **C** = 70%-79%
- **D** = 60%-69%
- **F** = 59% or Below

**Academic Integrity**

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism: “1. the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work.”


Access to technology makes it easier to copy the work of others. Students will learn what constitutes plagiarism and how to steer clear of it. As a rule, if there are three words in a row that someone else can claim, cite it. Plagiarism is stealing and cheating and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is against the law.
The first time a student is caught plagiarizing, there will be a teacher/student conference, a phone call home, no credit given for the assignment, and notification given to the SAEP office.

Copying from a fellow classmate is also unacceptable on homework assignments and individual assessments. The consequences are the same as above.

**Teacherease.com:**
Parents and students can access grades and attendance through a web-based grade program at [teacherease.com](http://teacherease.com). By the end of the first week, parents will be e-mailed the password to access the program. If you do not receive your password via e-mail, please contact the office staff at [saep@csun.edu](mailto:saep@csun.edu) and request the password to be re-sent. It is beneficial for you to refer often to the website to check your child's progress and attendance in class. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me.

**Classroom Behavior:**
The student is expected to demonstrate mature, polite behavior and extend courtesy to everyone at all times:

1. Actively participate, and respectful verbal and nonverbal interaction with all opinions must be shown at all times.
2. Since differing views will be expressed, the teacher and the student(s) will mutually maintain a safe environment for courteous dialogue.
3. Respect is to be shown for all CSUN property.
4. No food or beverages will be permitted in the classroom. Snacks must be eaten outside between the designated breaks.
5. Warnings for behavior / discipline problems will be given once. Any further problems will result in a phone call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) and possible dismissal from the program.

**SAEP Electronics Policy**

**Cell phones, music players and headphones are not permitted to be used during class hours.**

a. Please put your cell phone on silent (NOT vibrate).

b. No texting is allowed during class.

You will be given one verbal warning if the above is not followed. Should a second warning be necessary, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held by the teacher until after class. If a third time occurs, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held in the SAEP office and MUST BE PICKED UP BY A PARENT.
Speech and Debate

After reading through the syllabus, please sign and date and have your student return it to class. The signature constitutes your commitment to the class as we partner to make the next five weeks a life-long educational experience for your student.

**Student/ Parent Agreement:**
Please bring this signed and dated *Speech and Debate* syllabus agreement to class tomorrow.

If you do not understand any portion of this syllabus, or if you have any questions regarding this class, please do not hesitate to email the teacher.

We have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.

Student name ________________________________________________

Student signature ____________________________________________

Date ___________________

Parent/Guardian name _________________________________________

Parent/Guardian signature _____________________________________

Date ___________________

Phone _______________________________________________________

E-mail _________________________________________________________