Legacy High School

Debate and Forensics

Program Overview

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| **Overview of Debate**:  Debate is a great way to learn argumentation and refutation. Students select and work with a debate partner during the week and on weekend tournaments.  Tournaments are available for novice (first year) debaters. Novice debaters are not required to know anything about debate or the national topic. Students must possess a strong work ethic and excellent social skills. Speaking skills are encouraged.  **You will learn how to**:   * Analyze, and critique what you read. * Effectively argue your position on any topic. * Find flaws in other people’s arguments. * Express yourself articulately and smoothly. * Gather and employ research as proof. * Detect and point out Logical Fallacies. * Understand complex philosophical arguments and communicate them succinctly. * Look at conflicting viewpoints from different perspectives. * Lead yourself and others with character and integrity. * Develop your own philosophy of life. * Excel in other classes as debate gives you a foundation and background information in every area of academics * You will actually be surprised how much **you learn** by **accident** in participating in Debate Tournaments and from other students. | **Program Details and Requirements:**   * Season is September through late May * You must be willing to compete at the UIL district, regional and state competition as well as practice and invitational meets. * **You select** which tournaments and events you compete. * Debate practice is Every **Thursday** after school. * **Room AJ114** * Optional Debate **Camp** (scholarships) * State Championships and National Tournaments are available and awaiting! * **Fun** opportunities to meet new friends from LHS and other schools, go on trips, and learn skills that will help you in everything you do in other academic classes and life!!! * Awards, Trophies, Scholarships and yes you can earn a **Varsity Letter**  in Debate. * **College Scholarships** available * NFL National Honor Society Membership and Awards * Increase your class rank and GPA. * **Intro to Debate can count as your required Communication Application Credit.** * Debate utilizes a variety of learning strategies as well as incorporates students with a variety of interests and talents in a synergetic approach to academic success. * Yes, we are even looking for quiet introverted personalities in our research and development team. |
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**Debate and Forensics Events**

Forensics is a competitive, interscholastic activity that includes nearly 7 different events. Students may compete in several different events throughout the season. They are:

**Persuasive Extemporaneous Speaking**: a memorized, persuasive speech you write

**Informative Extemporaneous Speaking**: a memorized, informative speech you write

**Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking**: an improvised current events speech focusing on international events

**Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking**: an improvised current events speech focusing on domestic (USA) events

**Student Congress**: a mock congress with legislation

**Lincoln-Douglas**: a value/philosophical debate

**Policy Debate**: A political/policy debate (team of 2)

**Public Forum Debate** (team of 2)

Prose and Poetry Interpretation **For More Details**

**See Mr. Ritz**

**Room AJ-114 or Call (940) 782-8968**

Email: [howardritz@misdmail.org](mailto:howardritz@misdmail.org)

# **Debate at a Glance**

# **Two Types of Debate**

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**Lincoln Douglas (LD)**

**1. One on One**

**2. Philosophical Arguments**

**What is Ethical?**

**3. Deals with Conflict of Values.**

**(Privacy vs. Safety)**

**(Sanctity vs. Quality of life)**

**(Human Rights vs. Animal Rights)**

**(Utilitarianism or Individualism)**

**(THAT AIN’T RIGHT!!)**

**4. Emphasis on Analytical Arguments**

**Quote ancient/modern philosophers**

**5. Student Becomes Familiar with:**

1. **Logic and philosophy**
2. **Effective Speaking Skills**
3. **Thinking on their feet**
4. **Developing Persuasive Argumentation**
5. **Listening skills**

**f. Writing persuasive arguments**

1. **Ethics and Morals, history**
2. **Standing alone.**

**6. Specific Topics Change every 2**

**months**

**7. Debate rounds last approx. 40 min.**

**Regardless which type of debate you eventually choose and master, you will learn to think critically, analytically, and become more tolerant of others opinions. We hope to teach our students not only how to become great persuasive speakers but also intelligent and wise listeners. The goal of debate is not to equip students with tools to only prove they are right but to enlighten them as they seek the truth for**

**THEMSELVES.**

**Policy Debate (CX)**

**1. Two Person Team**

**2. Government Policy Arguments**

**What are we going to do?**

**3. Deals with Solving Crisis**

**(Environmental Decay)**

**(Economic Collapse)**

**(World War)**

**(WE are All going to DIE!!!)**

**4. Emphasis on Concrete Evidence**

**Up to date facts**

**5. Student Becomes Familiar with:**

1. **Researching evidence**
2. **Working collaboratively**
3. **Organizing Information**
4. **Listening Skills**
5. **Multi-tasking**
6. **Working under pressure**

**g. Integrating curriculum**

**Politics, science, law, history, geography, statistics, current events, health, economics, government.**

**6. Broad Topic Changes each year**

**Next year’s topic: “The United States Federal Government should substantially increase its exploration and or development of outer space beyond the earth’s mesosphere.”**

**7. Debate rounds last approx 90 minute**