



OFFICE HOURS: Tues/Thurs  
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## Phillip O. Berry Academy

### Course Introduction and Overview

#### *What is Speech and Debate...?*

Speech and Debate is designed to improve and enhance your public speaking and rhetorical skills. The class will provide you the skills necessary to communicate your ideas and ideals with poise, confidence, and clarity. Above all, you will develop the communication skills – both interpersonal as well as intrapersonal – that are both inherent and necessary in effective leaders.

Throughout the semester, you will analyze texts, research ideas, evaluate your peers' speeches, and create your own orations. You will develop the skills necessary to communicate competently and confidently; you should also have high expectations regarding in-class discussions, your engagement of ideas, and the overall improvement of your speaking skills and ability.

#### *Learning with the End in Sight...*

The three purposes of Speech and Debate:

- Improve and refine your ability to speak comfortably, confidently, and competently in both formal and informal formats, using the full array of language resources: appropriate syntax, diction, tone, and other rhetorical strategies.
- Improve and refine your ability to read, analyze, interpret, and evaluate people, poetry, and prose.
- Improve your ability to compete and excel in both college and the workforce.

#### *The Speech and Debate Resume of Goals...*

Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on helping you mature in your reading, writing, and communication skills, which for Speech and Debate is characterized by the following:

- analyzing, evaluating, and interpreting speeches, prose, poetry, and visual texts.
- synthesizing information from different sources in order to explore or explain various principles, ideas, and experiences
- critiquing texts from a variety of perspectives and approaches
- exploring a deeper understanding of life through extended engagement of texts
- applying conventions of grammar and language usage during the writing and speaking processes

#### *Supplies You Will Need to Succeed...*

Please bring the following supplies to class:

- Paper and pencil/pen
- Highlighter
- Binder (2" or 3")
- Binder Dividers

Specific Methods and Objectives

*The Process of Making a Speech...*

Public speaking is not merely about communicating to people – it is about connecting with them. The following methods and objectives are thus designed to insure that you improve in your ability to both communicate and connect with your audience:

- use the different stages of the writing process and become adept at the entire process necessary for creating a quality speech
- learn to craft a strong thesis and to effectively organize your ideas in order to support a thesis
- speak in a variety of formats: formal, informal, and competitive speeches
- study style and grammar in order to develop speaking ability
- write/speak for different purposes: to explore, explain, or evaluate your ideas and the ideas of others
- create several drafts of a speech in order to appreciate the nuances of verbal/non-verbal language
- use rubrics and the feedback from both your peers and teacher in order to assess your strengths, weaknesses, skills, and areas for improvement

English Standards and Expectations

*Going the Distance...*

Expect the following:

- Expect to write or speak every day.
- Expect to write or speak in different modes and for a variety of purposes.
- Expect to revise your speeches through several drafts.
- Expect to discuss all outside reading during class.
- Expect to meet due dates.
- Expect to eliminate digital distractions during class.
- Expect to have fun. This is sure to be a rewarding experience.

*What is in a Grade...?*

The grading policy is as follows:

Grades will be weighted as follows:

**First/Second Quarters**

Formal Grade – Tests & Projects.....	70%
Informal Grade – Homework/Classwork...	30%
Midterm .....	20%

**Third/Fourth Quarters**

Formal Grade – Tests & Projects.....	70%
Informal Grade – Homework/Classwork...	30%
Final Exam .....	20%

Grades will be scored as follows:

A	100 - 90
B	89 - 80
C	79 - 70
D	69 - 60
F	59 - 50

**Zero Tolerance: Plagiarism/cheating will result in a zero (makeup opportunity will not exceed a 60%).**

### *Measurement Methods...*

Various assessment techniques and strategies will be utilized in class such as group participation, homework, quizzes, tests, projects, e-learning, and quarterly tests.

### *A Little Note about Work and Responsibility...*

It is not possible to learn and master the material if you are unwilling to meet due dates. The following policy will therefore be enforced concerning late work:

- **All work is due by the beginning of class.**
- **All late work will be penalized ten percent per day.**
- **All homework assignments late by greater than two school days will receive a zero.** You have five days to make up all other assignments.
- In the rare occasion of **your absence, you are responsible to follow up** with me, a friend, or on-line in order to learn what important material was covered and what work was assigned.
- If you miss any warm up activity at the beginning of class due to **being tardy, in most cases you will have to make up the activity after school** or receive a zero.

### Year at a Glance

#### *Speech and Debate I*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit 1: Responsibility and Confidence<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Chapters 1 &amp; 2 [The Person]</li></ul></li><li>• Unit 2: Organizing Your Speech<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Chapter 9 [Preparation &amp; Process]</li><li>○ <b>This I Believe</b></li></ul></li><li>• Unit 3: Listening and Nonverbal Communication<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Chapters 3 &amp; 4 [Person to Person]</li><li>○ <b>Declamation</b></li></ul></li><li>• Unit 4: Delivery and Language<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Chapter 11 &amp; 12 [Preparation &amp; Process]</li><li>○ <b>Original Oration</b></li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit 5: Persuasive &amp; Informative Speeches<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Chapters 13 &amp; 14 [Presentations]</li><li>○ <b>Expository Speaking</b></li></ul></li><li>• Unit 6: Oral Interpretation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Chapter 16 [Presentations]</li><li>○ <b>POI, DI, DUO</b></li></ul></li><li>• Competition (Various Tournaments):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>It is mandatory for students in the class to participate in speech and debate tournaments.</b></li></ul></li></ul> |
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### Final Thoughts

Please know that *the syllabus is not written in stone*. I will be assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the class as the year progresses, and **I will adjust the curriculum, without compromising the class standards or expectations, in order to ensure all students are at their proximal level of learning.**

And above all, I am one of your biggest fans. I am fanatical about your success, and your growth as a person is as equally important as your grade in this class. Be prepared for the challenge and enjoy your learning amidst your full schedule.

I look forward to our year together.

Sincerely and Respectfully,



Patrick C. Ames