

Pomona High School

Speech and Debate

Course Outline

2013-2014

Teacher:

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Table of Contents

Course Overview.....	3
Objectives.....	3
Student Expectations.....	3
Classroom Policies.....	4
Required Materials.....	4
Tournament Policies	5
Grading/Assignments.....	7
Dues.....	7
Free/Reduced Lunch	7

Appendix

JeffCo Activity Permission Form	8
Transportation Authorization Form.....	9

Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to be successful in public speaking, speech organization, research, critical thinking, listening and competitive debate. This will be achieved by building on basic fundamentals learned as a novice (first-year) speech and varsity debate student. Students will learn and practice the skills of advanced debate argumentation, including writing cases and blocks, refining files, structuring arguments, analyzing the current topic and developing effective methods of communication and refutation. Students will be expected to assume a greater level of individual responsibility and to serve as role models for both their classmates and novice speech and debate students.

Because speech and debate is a co-curricular activity, students are expected to participate in afterschool meetings and practices and to compete at tournaments on the weekends. Students need to ensure their personal schedules will enable them to devote some evening and weekend time to the class.

Objectives

1. Students will become sophisticated communicators as participants and critics in speech and debate practices and competitions.
2. Students will expand their critical thinking skills, including a more nuanced understanding of debate argumentation, logic and theory, and various speaking methods.
3. Students will develop advanced writing and research skills by producing debate arguments and speeches by utilizing original research.
4. Students will develop strong interpersonal skills through collaboration with each other and as mentors to novice debaters and other speech students.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to attend class on time and be ready to learn. Students are expected to participate in classroom assignments and activities while treating their classmates, the teacher, and themselves with respect. Ridicule of others will not be tolerated. Due to the structure of this course students must feel safe to stand and speak and cannot be compromised by ridicule or disrespect. This course is not only designed to assist students into becoming effective communicators it also designed to empower students to work with vigor and dedication towards bettering themselves.

Students are required to compete in at least four tournaments per semester!

Classroom Policies

Absences: If you are absent, it is your responsibility to be proactive in making up any work you missed. If you know ahead of time you will be absent, you should let your teacher know in advance.

Tardies: You are expected to come to class on time and be prepared to work. Tardiness is defined as not being in your seat with necessary materials out at the beginning of class. Excessive tardiness may negatively affect your grade and/or tournament travel.

Behavior Policies:

1. Respect your teacher, your classmates and yourself. Bullying, harassment and inappropriate language, behavior or gestures will not be tolerated.
2. The classroom should be a place where everyone feels comfortable sharing his or her thoughts and opinions. No student may impede the learning or self-expression of another student.
3. Please be kind, respectful and courteous at all times.

Materials

- Pencils/Pens/Highlighters
- Notebook/Folder with Tabs
- 3x5 Index Cards
- **Digital Timer**
- 8GB Flash Drive

Tournament Policies

Tournament travel is a privilege, not a right. Your behavior at tournaments is a reflection of the entire school district, and as such, you should always act in a manner that represents Pomona High School, Jefferson County School District, and CHSAA at its best.

There is a zero tolerance policy for tobacco, alcohol and drug use at tournaments. Violations of this rule will result in a phone call to the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and the involvement of school officials.

Pomona High School, Jefferson Country School District, and CHSAA rules and policies will be in effect at all times and violations will first be handled by the teacher supervising the trip and will then be reported to the appropriate school district officials. If it is determined that the student's actions require removal from the tournament, arrangements will be made to send the student home, with the full cost paid for by the student.

Scheduling: Students must turn their field trip form 3 days prior to the date of departure for the tournament. Once a student turns in their field trip form, this is a firm commitment to attend the tournament. Therefore, if the student is unable to attend (excluding extenuating circumstances), s/he will be responsible for any nonrefundable fees, such as drop fees and the cost of their transportation ticket (if applicable).

Dress: Students are not permitted to wear hats, jeans or tennis shoes during competition. Males should wear collared shirts, nice slacks, a belt, dress shoes and a tie. Females should wear professional skirts, blouses or sweaters, nice pants or dresses. Tournaments necessitate spending a lot of time together (on buses, in cars, etc.) – please be respectful of others and ensure proper hygiene.

Transportation: Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation. Tournaments and events will be handled by your coach and carpooling is encouraged. Proper documentation must be submitted before parents or other students can transport team members who are not their own children.

Lodging: The Speech and Debate club will arrange appropriate accommodations for out-of-town trips. Students are required to stay where these arrangements are made, unless the student receives prior approval for alternative lodging from his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) and the teacher supervising the trip.

Policies:

- Students may not leave the hotel site without permission from the teacher supervising the trip.
- Students may not be in rooms of the opposite sex, unless it is for a team meeting and the door is propped open.

- Students may not be in rooms of students from other schools. Students may meet with other teams in public areas of the hotel before bed check.
- Students must be in their rooms by bed check and are not permitted to leave afterwards.
- Students must keep their hotel rooms clean.
- All charges made by the students (room service, movies, etc.) must be paid for in full before check-out.

Meals: Students will be expected to pay for their own meals while at debate tournaments, and should plan accordingly for the duration of the trip.

Make-Up Work: Students are responsible for making up any work missed while absent from class for a debate trip. Debate trips are scheduled far in advance and students are expected to inform their teachers of any upcoming absences at the earliest possible time. Academic work always comes before tournament travel and students are expected to maintain academic excellence in order to have the privilege of traveling.

Evidence Sharing: Students are not permitted to share or exchange evidence with members from another team unless prior consent from the coach is granted. This extends to all accounts and passwords affiliated with the debate team.

Behavior: Students should refrain from making negative comments towards or about coaches, teammates, judges and other teams and interactions should be respectful and appropriate at all times. Judges and coaches have taken time out of their busy schedules to help you improve as a speech and debate student, and you should always take note of the comments and criticisms provided to you after debate rounds, even if you disagree with them. Ensure you arrive promptly for your round, prior to the scheduled start time – one round that starts late can delay the entire tournament for everyone in attendance.

Grading

Your grade will be determined by a number of factors, including researching and writing files, homework assignments, participating in class, participating in afterschool practices, competing at tournaments, and completing team service hours.

- (10%) Homework
- (30%) Practice Debates and Afterschool Meetings
- (20%) Class Participation
- (20%) Team Service and Novice Mentoring
- (20%) Participation in a minimum of 3 tournaments

Late Work: Homework is due at the beginning of class. Late homework assignments will not be accepted. Examples of homework assignments include: topic analysis, tournament updates and current events.

More so than in other classes, turning in research assignments late negatively affects your classmates and impedes the ability of the debate team to be successful. With that in mind, grades for major research assignments will be docked 10% for each day they are late.

Academic Dishonesty: All Pomona High School and Jefferson County School District policies are in effect for academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism. In the context of debate assignments, this also extends to turning in others' (including evidence produced by summer institutes, Pomona JS students and non-Pomona HS students and coaches) work as your own, not citing evidence properly and fabricating evidence.

Course Credit: Each student can earn a total of **.5** credits for participation in the entire speech and debate season. Credit is earned as **.25**/credits per semester.

Dues

The per semester fee is due to Pomona High School. The fee covers the first 3 tournament fees and also includes registration in the National Forensic League. The fee is **\$50** and can be made by cash or check to Pomona High School. Please submit payment to Linda Minzak, the financial aid secretary no later than October 1. This fee must be paid before students can begin actual competitions.

Free/Reduced Lunch

There are discounts available for students who qualify for the free/reduced lunch program. Please contact Assistant Principle Nancy Blumenberg for further details.

International/Domestic Overnight Student Travel or Day Trip

These Forms Are Also Used For Student Activities

The purpose of this form is to give authorization to and provide vehicle information for transporting students by private vehicle during international or domestic overnight travel or a day trip on the dates listed below.

Students may be approved to transport other students on domestic overnight travel and day trips only.

The district does not insure privately owned vehicles.

Student Travel/Transportation Authorization To be completed by Parent/Guardian and Principal

I am aware that my child, _____ will be transported by private vehicle during an approved trip to: _____ during the following date(s): _____.

The driver(s) meets the specifications listed below and have been approved by the principal to have a valid driver's license. Driver's license and insurance information is confidential and will be kept on file with the principal.

In consideration of my child's voluntary participation in the activity listed above, I hereby release and discharge the Jefferson County School District No. R-1 and its directors, employees, representatives, and Board of Education for any claim or cause of action, rights, damages and demands of any kind or nature, known or unknown, including claims for attorney's fees and costs arising out of the aforementioned activity in which I and my child have elected to voluntarily participate.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

Principal's Signature Date

Driver Specifications for Parents/Staff/ Student Driver(s)

1. The vehicle being driven will be in good operating condition.
2. All students must wear seat belts.
3. The vehicle has liability insurance that meets the minimum standards of the Colorado Financial Responsibility Law.
4. The driver is at least 17 years of age or older.
5. The number of passengers carried shall not exceed the capacity of the vehicle and the state mandated laws.
6. Under 18 years of age and driving less than 6 months there will be no one under the age of 21 as a passenger.
7. Under 18 years of age and driving less than one year and more than 6 months, there will be only one passenger under the age of 21 (Does not apply to driver's immediate family).
8. **You can not drive a vehicle carrying more than one passenger under 21 unless you have held**

your drivers license for at least one year.

The following driver(s) have been authorized to transport students by private vehicle on the date(s) listed above:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Sponsor's Signature

Date

Principal's Signature

Date

The following information is confidential and is to be kept by the principal and is not for distribution in the Student Travel Packet.

To Be Completed By Parent/Staff Driver(s) International or Domestic Overnight Travel or Day Trip

The insurance company providing coverage for my vehicle is: _____

Insurance Company Name Policy # _____

I verify that the conditions outlined above will be complied with on this student travel experience.

Driver's License Number

Name of Driver (please print)

Signature of Driver

To Be Completed By Student Driver and Parent/Guardian of Student Driver(s) Domestic Overnight Travel or Day Trip

The insurance company providing coverage for my vehicle is: _____

Insurance Company Name Policy # _____

I verify that the conditions outlined above will be complied with on this student travel experience.

Driver's License Number

Name of Driver (please print)

Signature of Student Driver

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date License Issued

If Issued Less Than One Year,
of Months

Student's Date of Birth