Debate I – Class Syllabus

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**Course Description**

The focus of Debate I is to develop students’ beginning awareness, understanding, and application of language arts as it applies to oral communication concepts and strategies for public debate in a variety of given settings. In this class we will conduct a variety of debate styles, including—but not limited to—Lincoln-Douglas, Four Corners, Fishbowl, and Stakeholder. You will learn the skills needed to analyze and deliver formal debates, evaluate arguments in visual media, demonstrate appropriate public speaking techniques, use research and writing skills to support topics and point of view, assess a variety of claims, and collaborate with teammates.

**Course Expectations**

Students will adhere to the Lee County School District’s Code of Conduct and the Mariner High School Policy, including—but not limited to—Dress Code, Attendance, Grading, and Discipline.

**Contacting the Teacher**

I am happy to meet with students and parents/guardians in my classroom, Room 343. If you wish to call/meet with me before or after school, you MUST first schedule an appointment through phone call or email above.

**Classroom Materials**

1. Texts

a. *None*

2. Supplies

a. Folder (May be included as part of Binder)

b. Binder (with 5 dividers, separate for this class ONLY) – Optional if not using virtual binder

* + 1. Bell Ringers
    2. Daily Notes/Class Activities
    3. Vocabulary
    4. Homework
    5. Debate/Planning

c. Loose-leaf paper (should be set in binder)

d. Pens with blue or black ink, or pencils

e. Ear buds (Headphones), Google Chromebook – Can be used as “virtual binder”

**Google Chromebooks and Google Classroom**

Each student will be issued a Chromebook and assigned to a Google Classroom for each subject. We will actively be using these tools this school year. Therefore, your Chromebook will be required in this class. Class assignments/handouts will be available on Google Classroom and submitted electronically through the site.

**Grading**

Grades count on a point-weighted basis. The more complex the assignment, the more points it will be worth.

For example, homework and class activities might be worth 10 points, a mini-checkpoint or small project might be worth 25 points, and a checkpoint or formal debate might be worth 40 points or more.

The percentage of graded work in this class is divided as below for semester grades:

1. Quarter One Grade 40%
2. Quarter Two Grade 40%
3. Mid-term Exam/Final Exam 20%

*\*\*Extra credit is not the norm, so please do not expect it. There are plenty of graded opportunities all year.*

**Classroom Procedures**

Students are expected to follow classroom policies and procedures at all times. Much of your participation grade this year is based on your ability to follow through with all rules within the classroom.

**1. Come to Class Prepared and on Time** – Students are expected to bring their Chromebook, binder, and writing supplies every day. Returning to lockers for supplies is not allowed. There are frequent Binder Checks, so always bring your supplies. Be sure to TITLE and DATE your assignments. Coming to class unprepared will cause loss of participation points. Please be sure to go DIRECTLY to your desk after entering class. Begin with our daily bell ringer on the board. Students are NOT allowed to sit on counters or the air conditioner.

2. **Please Wait for Me to Dismiss You –** Please do NOT start packing up your supplies until I instruct you to do so. I promise to always give you at least one minute to gather your things before the bell rings. Students are not allowed to congregate by the door while waiting for the bell. Please stay in your seats until the end of class.

3. **Tardiness is Not Acceptable –** Students are expected to be in class when the bell rings. If you are not in class when the bell rings, you are considered tardy. Three tardies result in an automatic referral.

4. **Leaving Class Early –** Students are not allowed to visit any other classes or leave class early without a written pass/confirmation from the teacher. In circumstances where students have a valid reason to leave early, I must (1) receive word from the teacher beforehand, and (2) receive an email from the teacher stating you are present within SEVEN minutes of you leaving the classroom. Otherwise, you are subject to a referral.

5. **Bathroom/Water Fountain Use –** Please use the water fountain and/or bathroom before coming to class. Otherwise, please raise your hand and ask to use the facilities. We will ascribe to the MHS bathroom pass policy. There will be a bathroom sign-out sheet and up to THREE passes per semester. After three passes are used, students must get a signature from the Student Affairs office before returning to class. Only one student may leave the classroom at a time. Students gone for more than SEVEN minutes are subject to a referral.

6. **Turning in Late Assignments/Absences –** Please submit your assignments on time. Some assignments will be submitted on paper, and others will be submitted through Google Classroom. No LATE WORK is accepted for full credit in this course. There is a 10-point deduction for each day an assignment is missing, up to two days late; the assignment will otherwise receive a zero. In order to receive an extension for an emergency, please be sure to provide evidence. If you are absent for a quiz/test, expect to take it one day after you return.

7. **Electronics Use** – The only electronic device a student should be using in class is his/her Google Chromebook. Bring your Chromebook every class. Please wait for permission before using your Chromebooks in class. I should not see you on your cell phones OR headphones. You may not walk into class with your cell phone present. Please finish any texts/calls and put your phone away before you enter the classroom. If I see your cell phone, it will be taken away. There is no warning. The first case you may pick your phone up from me at the end of class. The second case and onward, your phone will be sent down to Student Affairs.

8. **Plagiarism and Cheating** – Please do not plagiarize. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with the Student Handbook and MHS plagiarism policy. The English Department takes this offense very seriously. If you have any questions, please see me. All other forms of cheating will also be handled in accordance with policies in the student handbook. NOTE: When taking a quiz or test, please be sure to have a scrap sheet of paper to cover your answers. This will be standard policy.

9. **Printing** – Students are asked to print any assignments that require printing at home or elsewhere at school. Printing services are available in the Media Center. Students are NOT permitted to print off materials for this course or other courses in class. Any assignments that require printing will be given ample prep time.

10. **Calling Teacher Attention –** Do not call out if you have a question or comment for me. Please raise your hand and wait to be called on; I will be with you as soon as I am able.

11. **Eating and Drinking** – With the exception of bottled water, there is NO food or drink or gum allowed in my class. This is MHS policy. Please eat and drink and before coming to class. Clean up your water bottles.

12. **Sprays and Perfumes** – The use of perfumes, colognes, scented lotions, etc. is not allowed in my class.

13. **Lost Books and Objects** – Students will sometimes lose, misplace, or forget clothing/books/personal items in class. I bring these items to a side counter in our classroom—the “Lost and Found”—so that you may pick them up. You are ultimately responsible for your own items/materials.

\*\**I strongly advise all students to find a PARTNER in class. This partner will be a great resource when you are absent. You can work together to catch up on any notes or missed assignments in case of absences, confer with one another when studying, or collect any missing handouts if necessary.*

**Classroom Rules**

*\*\*The most important guideline in my classroom management plan is the Golden Rule – treat others as you would like to be treated.*

1. Listen and follow directions.

2. Raise your hand if you have a question.

3. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.

4. Respect your classmates and your teacher.

5. Maintain your integrity.

**Classroom Consequences (Order is subject to change)**

1. Verbal warning

2. Speak with student after class

3. Letter home/phone call/email with parent/guardian

4. Disciplinary plan of action (ISS/Student Affairs and/or referral)

**Classroom Management Plan**A key component of any successful classroom is that we work together collaboratively, demonstrate respect, and not disrupt the teacher or our fellow peers. A violation of class rules may consist of:

1. Talking out of turn/“side conversations”  
2. Using cell phone or other disallowed electronic device  
3. Working on other homework from other classes  
4. Sleeping/Having head down  
5.Engaging in disrespectful behavior (bullying, drawing on desks, etc.)

**Kagan Classroom**Our classroom is a Kagan classroom. Therefore, we will follow PIES (Positive Interdependence, Individual Accountability, Equal Participation, and Simultaneous Interaction). This means that we engage in frequent discussion, strategies, and cooperative learning activities. Please pay close attention to your TABLE NUMBER, SEAT NUMBER, and your FACE/SHOULDER PARTNER. We will change seating arrangements every quarter or semester, depending on the class.

**Coming Back Together/Progress Check**After group work, when we must come back together as a class, I will raise my hand. At this time, all students should: (1) STOP TALKING/DOING (2) GIVE FULL ATTENTION TO THE TEACHER and (3) SIGNAL OTHERS to be quiet by raising their hands as well. I will also do frequent progress checks with hand/finger signals to determine comfort level with a test or complexity of an assignment.

*\*\*Remember: Do not be afraid to make mistakes. Look at each mistake as a learning experience. We will learn together this year. If you ever require extra help, please let me know. I am always here to help.*

Thank you for your compliance with these rules and procedures. I look forward to a wonderful year with you! Please feel welcome to contact me with any questions.

- Mr. Arciero

RETURN THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Debate I Syllabus

Mr. Ryan Arciero

Student Name: (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class Block: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Survey and Parent Contact Form**

**I have read this syllabus and discussed its contents with my student. We understand the classroom guidelines and procedures above, and my student agrees to abide by them for the benefit of all students and the teacher. I also abide to bring the class materials as mentioned in the syllabus by the due date.**

What is one area in Debate where you feel you are strong? (Speaking, Listening, Analysis, Argumentation, etc.) Why do you feel this is your strength? Explain.

What is one area in Debate where you need more work?

What do you look forward to most in Debate class? What do you look forward to least in Debate class?

Circle/Darken in all that apply: I have access at home to the following:

* Internet Access
* Printing Capabilities

Your signing of this syllabus acknowledges that you have read and understood this class syllabus. You acknowledge that you will abide by the policies to ensure your opportunity for academic achievement.

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number or Parent/Guardian’s Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s or Guardian’s Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_