

Speech & Debate Syllabus

Reynolds High School 2024/25

Instructor: Valerie Schiller **Room:** 609 **Length:** 1 Year (2 Semesters)
Email: vschiller@rsd7.net **Phone:** (503) 667-3186 ext. 1347 **Website:** Schoology
OFFICE HOURS—Monday 3:50-5:30PM; Tuesday-Friday 8:00-8:30AM; by appointment

Course Description

Major Concepts/Content: Speech & Debate is a year-long college-level Honors course introducing students to logical argumentation and speech skills on world issues—especially economics (education and jobs, household income, taxes), technology (artificial intelligence, property rights, and patents), public health, international politics, human rights, and government. These skills equip students to become members of the RHS Debate Team and become better and more confident critical readers, writers, speakers, questioners, and thinkers. These skills will set them up to ace classes in high school and boost ahead on any post-graduation path. Students will learn various debate forms and techniques, including constructing an affirmative case, preparing a rebuttal, and engaging in cross-examination and POIs. Furthermore, students will learn individual events—impromptu, extemporaneous, informative and persuasive speaking, radio commentary, and entertainment- and theatrical-style speaking. Students may observe and participate in real tournaments. Furthermore, students may earn college credit.

Needed Materials for Class - BRING WITH YOU EVERY DAY!

1. Notepad (“flowpad”)—for lecture, quick-writes, and flowing debate rounds
2. Pencils, Highlighter, and Pens (multiple colors, e.g. red, blue, green)
3. Laptop Computer

Ms. Schiller has supplies available for your success.

Grading - High School Weighted Elective Credit + MHCC College Credit

Projects—Summative Speeches: 50%	4 = 100% = Exceeds	A = 90-100%
Daily Work (Formative)—Briefs, Notes, Writings: 30%	3 = 85% = Meets	B = 80-89%
Quizzes: 10%	2 = 70% = Almost	C = 70-79%
Participation (POWER): 10%	1 = 60% = Does Not	D = 60-69%
Present	0 = 50% = No Evidence	F = 0-59%
On-time		
With materials		
Engaged listening and writing		
Regular verbal contributions		

DAILY TALLY:

Category	Present	On Time	With Materials	Engaged	Verbal Contribution
Points	I	II	III	IIII	IIII

Monthly, students will have a homework assignment called a brief. All work not completed in class becomes homework. Check Schoology for slideshows, assignments, and due dates. Projects and select assignments are graded on the Proficiency Scale (1-4). See grading rubrics for more detail. Ms. Schiller grades participation on a variation of the RHS Power policy—5 points per day, 25 points per two weeks (see above). Students must be ready for content quizzes at any time in the semester.

Late Work Policy

Late work is due as scheduled—online, printed, or both. However, except for *group application and group work activities*, students have a 1-week grace period. This means if a student misses a deadline, they have one week from that deadline to submit the assignment to the late box without penalty. Beyond the grace period, unless arranged prior with Ms. Schiller, work is worth **50% credit**.

Absences & Work Completion

As per the student handbook, students with excused absences have as many days as they missed to complete missing work. **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES** (skipping) may result in a penalty of 50% credit.

When absent, check: 1. Schoology; 2. Absent Bin; 3. with Classmates; 4. with the Teacher

Tardies & Locked Door

Within seconds of the bell, the door is closed and locked for the duration of the class period. The locked door signals class is in session and helps the people inside stay secure and concentrate on work. If arriving late, please knock politely and wait. The teacher or a designated student will open the door soon.

Electronics Policy (Cell Phones, Headphones/Earbuds, and Laptops)

Initials

Guardian:

Student:

To preserve the classroom for higher-level learning and concentration, **cell phones are not allowed without explicit permission from the teacher.** Before a student enters, they must turn off and put away into their bag their cell phone and earbuds. Students who take out their phone before their work is checked off for the day earn fewer participation points. Breaking this policy is grounds for confiscation and parent pick-up. Headphones/earbuds are allowed during independent worktime only. **Students must charge their laptop every night and bring their laptop every day. (The classroom has a limited number of chargers and outlets for use during worktime.) Classwork may not be done on a phone. Students who forget their laptop computer will be required to borrow or work on paper.**

Community Expectations – DAILY HABITS BUILD CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP.

- MUTUAL RESPECT:** Respect goes two ways: from student to community and from community to student. This means the student respects their classmates, teacher, classroom, the day's lesson, and self. At the same time, the community shows respect to each student and their opportunity to learn. Ms. Schiller strives to facilitate an environment for each student to have what they need to succeed. Often this means the community learns from and teaches each other. Before the tardy bell rings, students are in their seat with required materials and working on the day's warm-up. During direct instruction, attention is on the teacher or presenter. During group work, attention is on peers and the assignment. During independent worktime, headphones are used only to aid concentration on the assignment. Headphones are off and away for the day's exit. All materials are cleaned up on desks and floors so the next class period finds the room spotless. Due to historical patterns of rodent activity, food and drinks other than water are not allowed and must be consumed in the hallway prior to entering the classroom. Students and teacher act with care and purpose.
- RESPONSIBLE COMMUNICATION:** Students have a shared responsibility, along with Ms. Schiller, in building a positive and collaborative community. Each student is expected to be actively engaged in listening, writing, and speaking each day. Whether the speaker is Ms. Schiller, a classmate, or a guest, pay attention and be kind. If a student is absent, they are responsible for checking both in person and electronically on Schoology to catch up on missing work. Ms. Schiller announces and reminds of deadlines frequently. Any questions, comments, or concerns may be written and placed in Ms. Schiller's Message Box, emailed, or communicated during office hours or by appointment. If connected to the day's work, please ask questions in class! Questions asked at an appropriate time count as a verbal contribution.
- GROWTH MINDSET:** Speech & Debate is all about taking risks outside one's comfort zone so to learn, grow, and gain confidence and skill. This means practice, practice, practice and engaging in real-world Speech & Debate, especially tournaments! While students are not expected to be perfect, they are expected to be actively working toward a growth mindset throughout the school year. As part of this expectation, **students may revise and resubmit any work within one week of receiving feedback.**

MHCC Course Information – Students have the opportunity to sign up for free college credit.

Title: COMM221A: Forensics

Type: Lower Division Collegiate (100)

Subject: Communication (COMM)

Course Credit: 1 Lab Hours/Term: 30

Course Description: This course allows for preparation of speeches, debates and discussions for delivery before public audiences and in inter-collegiate competition. Repeatable for up to 3 elective credits.

Course Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Deliver a persuasive speech.
2. Deliver an informative speech.
3. Discuss and practice skills in extemporaneous and impromptu speaking.
4. Practice debating skills.

MHCC Statement of Academic Honesty

Cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic dishonesty are regarded as serious offenses. Instructors have the responsibility to submit, in a written report to the Associate Vice President of Student Life, any such incident that cannot be resolved between the instructor and student. Depending on the nature of the offense, serious penalties may be imposed, ranging from loss of points to expulsion from the class or college. The MHCC Student Handbook includes Student Rights & Responsibilities.

Bolded dates are official team activities and not required. However, engagement on the team vastly improves public speaking skills over time. Events are highly encouraged and worth extra credit.

SEMESTER 1 Intro to Speech & Debate

September: Games, Routines, Elements of Speaking (Content, Physicality, Vocal Delivery), Impromptu, Roadmapping & Signposting, Sides & Basic Debate Structure, SPAR, Sourcing & Research, Outlining, Intro to Informative Speaking, Visual Aids, Toulmin's Model of Argumentation, Impact Calculus

Tues, Sept 10: RHS Speech & Debate Team Info Session @ 1st Lunch

Tues, Sept 10: First Practice (After School @ 3:50pm)

Thurs, Sept 12: SPAR Day @ 1st Lunch

Thurs, Sept 19: Raider Jeopardy @ 1st Lunch

October: Informative Speeches, Big Questions Debate, Policy (CX) Debate

Constructing a Case: Framework & Contentions, Refutations & Poking Holes, Intro to Extemporaneous Speaking, Evidence Cards, Intro to Radio Commentary, Vocal Inflection, Cross-Examination Techniques, Flowing, Policy Stock Issues, Consolidation & Voters

Sat, Oct 5: Community Service Project @ Gresham Japanese Garden (9am-12pm)

Sat, Oct 19: OSAA Sunset High School Novice Tournament

Thurs, Oct 24: PUDL Reynolds High School Novice After-School Scrimmage

Thurs, Oct 31: Horror Literature-Themed Jeopardy @ 1st Lunch

November: Radio Commentary Speeches, Individual Events, Lincoln-Douglas & Parli Debate

Draft Revisions, Enunciation, Audience Appeals (Ethos, Pathos, Logos), Reading Delivery, Brief-Writing

Sat, Nov 2: OSAA Silverton High School Speech Tournament

Sat, Nov 9: PUDL McDaniel High School Tournament

Fri-Sun, Nov 22-24: OSAA Robert D. Clark U of Oregon Overnight Tournament (Application Required)

December: Intro to Persuasive Speaking, Guided Extemporaneous Speaking, Lincoln-Douglas & Parli Debate
Speed Case-Building, Monroe's Motivated Sequence, Group Policy Debate, Interpretation & "Cutting" Pieces

Sat, Dec 7: OSAA Clackamas/Nelson High School Tournament

Sat, Dec 14: OSAA Ida B. Wells High School Tournament

Thurs, Dec 19: Annual RHS Speech & Debate Team Holiday Gathering (After School)

January: Persuasive Speeches

Color-Coding, Drafting, Prepping, Final Speech Performances

Final Presentations take place January 15-22, 2025.

Weds, Jan 15: History-Themed Jeopardy @ 1st Lunch

Sat-Sun, Jan 18-19: OSAA Jean Ward Invitational/PUDL Rose Cup at Lewis & Clark College (Day Trips)

SEMESTER 2 Intermediate Speech & Debate

February: Polished Extemporaneous Speaking

Public Speaking Reflections & Goal-Setting, International Politics, Avoiding Common Speech/Debate Mistakes

Sat, Feb 15: OSAA Reynolds Invitational/NAUDL Policy Qualifiers (Additional Extra Credit Available!)

Sat, Feb 22: NSDA National Qualifiers (Must meet point eligibility)

March: Ethics Bowl Preparation & Capitol Field Trip

Intro to Ethics & Philosophy, Unlearning Bad Habits, Team Research, Scrimmage, Real-World Speech & Debate

Sat, March 2: OSAA Oregon City High School Tournament

Tues, March 4: Annual Community Showcase Night at Reynolds HS (Additional Extra Credit Available!)

Fri-Sat, March 14-15: OSAA Mt. Hood Conf District Competition at Gresham High School (Day Trips)

Tues, March 18: Class Field Trip to Oregon State Capitol in Salem (Alternative Assignment Available)

April: Ethics Bowl Competition, Intro to Criminal Justice

O.J.: *Made in America* Pre-Unit Research & Reports, Documentary Parts I & II

Weds, Apr 9: Literature-Themed Jeopardy @ 1st Lunch

Thurs-Sat, Apr 24-26: OSAA Speech & Debate State Championships (Must qualify from results at Districts)

May/June: Criminal Justice Discussion Unit—Essay & Socratic Seminar

O.J.: *Made in America* Documentary Parts III, IV, and V—Final takes place June 2-11, 2025.

Tournament Participation

Students are **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** to participate in tournaments. Talk to current members of the team about their experiences. All experience is good experience and will make stronger speakers and debaters. For tournaments, transportation and other expenses are provided. Your student participates for free.

Parent Request

Consider serving as a judge at a tournament! No experience required. Training provided. Contact Ms. Schiller.

Return of Contract

READ, SIGN, and RETURN THIS CONTRACT TO MS. SCHILLER

Student: I have read and understand the expectations for Speech & Debate, including the strong recommendation of participation at tournaments. I have initialed the cell phone policy.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian: I have read and understand the expectations for Speech & Debate, including the strong recommendation of participation at tournaments. I have initialed the cell phone policy. I will support my student's learning success.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Circle best method(s) of contact: Call/Text/Work/Email _____

Circle best time(s) of: Morning/Afternoon/Evening _____

Questions, Concerns, and/or Comments:

DUE BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 — Extra credit available for return Sept. 6-11.