Johnston  Speech and Debate Core Curriculum Standards

Speech and Debate and the Core Curriculum

What ELA, Reading and Social Studies Teachers wish they could get kids to do, Debate DOES!

Critical Reading and Literacy
- Demonstrate ability to comprehend and identify main ideas in written sources.
- Read, comprehend and analyze scholarly journal articles.
- Read, comprehend and analyze news sources.
- Read, comprehend and analyze government and public documents.
- Read, comprehend and analyze nonfiction books.
- Read, comprehend and analyze internet sources.
- Read, comprehend and analyze 2 or more sources on the same subject by different authors.
- Demonstrate ability to recognize and assess author’s intent.
- Demonstrate ability to identify logical and factual flaws in written sources.
- Demonstrate ability to recognize and evaluate points of contention between 2 or more written sources.

Listening
- Demonstrate ability to comprehend and identify main ideas in oral sources.
- Demonstrate ability to summarize facts and arguments from oral presentation.
- Demonstrate ability to analyze and respond to facts and arguments in an oral presentation.
- Demonstrate ability to analyze television and radio news and commentary.

Writing and Note-taking
- Demonstrate ability to develop and utilize effective personal note-taking strategies.
- Demonstrate ability to use an outline to structure notes.
- Demonstrate ability to summarize main ideas of texts and oral presentations in writing.
- Demonstrate ability to write persuasively.
- Demonstrate ability to make an oral presentation using written notes.
- Demonstrate ability to record each argument during a speech presented by an opponent during a debate, and use these notes to respond orally to each argument individually and in proper sequence.

Speaking and Presentation
- Develop familiarity and comfort speaking in public.
- Demonstrate ability to adapt oral presentations to various audiences.
- Demonstrate ability to use non-verbal communication (body language, eye contact, etc.) effectively in a public speaking performance.

Critical Thinking and Argumentation
- Demonstrate ability to structure arguments clearly and effectively.
- Demonstrate ability to understand both sides of a controversial subject.
- Demonstrate ability to identify the logical reasoning in statements and arguments made by others.
- Demonstrate ability to use logical reasoning to form statements and arguments.
- Demonstrate ability to use evidence (statistics, expert opinion, and/or historical precedent) to strengthen
an argument.
• Demonstrate ability to use evidence to critique arguments made by others.

9
• Demonstrate ability to construct and advocate a complete policy proposal, which includes the following components:
  - identifying a problem area (harm);
  - describing the importance of the problem area (significance);
  - creating a possible solution (plan);
  - assessing the effectiveness of the plan for solving the problem (solvency);
  - identifying additional benefits of the plan (advantages).
• Demonstrate ability to respond to a policy proposal presented by others.

**Solving Problems**
• Demonstrate ability to identify the cause of problem
• Demonstrate ability to use research and/or logical reasoning to assess various solutions to a problem.
• Demonstrate ability to develop a solution and assess the effectiveness of the solution.

**Teamwork**
• Demonstrate ability to work in teams.
• Demonstrate ability to divide tasks between team members.
• Demonstrate ability to participate in a group discussion to render a decision or complete a project.

**Organization and Self-Management of Learning**
• Demonstrate ability to evaluate own performance.
• Demonstrate ability to manage time independently and effectively in order to complete a complex task.
• Demonstrate ability to create systems to organize information in a useful manner.

**Research and Synthesis**
• Demonstrate ability to find and utilize information wide variety of print and multimedia sources.
• Demonstrate ability to research with a purpose.
• Demonstrate ability to use electronic databases to collect information effectively.
• Demonstrate ability to use internet search engines to collect information effectively.
• Demonstrate ability to use a card catalogue and/or an electronic index to find books and periodicals in a library.
• Demonstrate ability to synthesize information from different sources to communicate a coherent idea.
• Demonstrate ability to apply information to new contexts and situations.
• Demonstrate ability to assess the credibility of sources when conducting research.
• Demonstrate ability to use appropriate methods of citation to credit sources.

**Citizenship**
• Increase awareness of current political controversies.
• Develop tools to comprehend and respond to political arguments.
• Demonstrate ability to apply understanding of argument and source bias to ideas and text beyond the
classroom