

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
ENGL 2221 Speech and Debate
Course Syllabus

Course Description:

This course explores concepts in public speaking, critical thinking, argument and debate. Students will study different styles of speeches, learn rhetorical strategies and practice the art of debate. A major focus of the class will be the elements of rhetoric as it pertains to information, persuasion and debate. The students will give several speeches to classmates, and potentially have the opportunity to compete in a speech tournament. Various styles of speech will be studied, including: persuasion, impromptu, extemporaneous, and debate. Extensive research of famous speeches and their impact on the culture of the time, detailed study, application and integration of persuasive techniques, and analysis of current events and the speeches that accompany them will be integral to the class.

Curricular Mapping & Course Objectives:

This course will continue to develop student skills specifically in the area of oral presentation, research methods, rhetoric and writing. The content of the class will prepare students for the college classroom and professional world. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and use the components of logical construction in speech & writing
- Higher appreciation for critical thinking in both speaking and listening.
- Actively listen and engage in genuine dialogue and constructive criticism.
- Read an audience and adjust accordingly.
- Appreciate cultural diversity in the context of word choice.
- Understand all the elements of the speech (format presented in class)
- Organize thoughts in a fluid, essay-like manner and research, using a wide variety of sources.
- Dynamically deliver a variety of speech styles including: informative, impromptu, persuasive, demonstrative, testimonial, autobiographical and others.
- Analyze the various behavioral aspects of speech in others.
- The ability to practice and execute excellent delivery of material while maintaining physical posture, eye contact and varying vocal tones.
- Engage in sophisticated, intellectual debate. Recognize and engage on both sides of an argument.
- Understand of the moral and ethical issues inherent in argument and persuasion.
- Understand and engage in Policy, Ethical, and apologetic forms of debate.

- Learn to identify and argue ethical and critical thinking dilemmas found in literature (one novel will be required reading each year)

Texts:

No formal textbook is required, the novel that is read this year will be free online.

iPad Apps:

Students will need to possibly purchase iPad apps if they are not offered free (sometimes the price changes from month to month) The cost will not exceed \$15.00.

Grading:

All student grades will be weighted as follows:

<u>Grade Book Categories</u>		<u>Semester Weighted Grading Configuration</u>	
Speeches and Presentations	50%	Quarter	40%
Quizzes	10%	Quarter	40%
Written Work & Research	20%	Final	20%
Participation	20%		
(behavior, attendance, being engaged in class)			

Standard final info will be announced at a later time. Your semester final may be waived if you compete in at least one Speech or Debate contest each semester. However, spaces for competition may be limited and you must be prepared to travel!

Class Policies:

The following class policies are non-negotiable. Please see the instructor if you have any concerns with your ability to follow these policies.

- Be regular in your attendance and on time (in the door when the bell rings).
- Respect the teacher, your classmates, yourself, classroom, school facilities. . . everything.
- Always use the trash cans and recycling cans appropriately.
- Take care of personal needs on personal time. No food or drink in the classroom unless approved by your teacher; water bottles are always okay.
- Engage your brain always. Engage your voice when appropriate.
- Take time at the beginning of class to read the daily agenda and homework sections of the white board or on Focus/Google classroom ~ you may wish to write them down.
- Take pride in your work and its outstanding completion.

- Students are expected to dress professionally on days when speeches are to be delivered and/or for competitions.
- Turn in all work on time – there are no acceptable excuses for late speeches or outlines
- Follow all MVCS policies for dress code, behavior and attendance.

School Policies and Expected Student Learning Results (ESLRs):

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as printed in the MVCS Parent-Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of the school. ~ Failure to comply with classroom or school policies will negatively affect your participation. In addition to addressing each ESLR every year, we target a specific ESLR each academic year for particular focus.

Tips:

You will survive this class by stepping out and being counted. Stepping back is only useful if a car is about to hit you.

Our reflection this year is . . .

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us most. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and famous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. You playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in all of us. And when we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.” Maryanne Williamson