Speech & Debate

Procedures 2
Find out what materials you need as well as the policies for turning in work.

Conduct 3
Understand classroom expectations of behavior and conduct.

Grading 4
Learn what comprises your grade in the class. Understand your learning objectives.

Ms. Ridal welcomes you to class

Students will learn the basic tenets of communicating information skillfully.

Being able to speak in front of others is an ages-old skill, yet it is still critical in this modern era of globalization.

You may ask sometime, "What's the right answer?" I have no "right" answers for you; the truth is a matter of perception. What matters is how well you can convince others that your point of view is the best one while still respecting multiple viewpoints.

This year you will conquer your fears of speaking in front of large groups and you will learn to listen productively to others and to articulate your ideas in a constructive way.

More importantly, though, you will learn more about yourself and your peers through taking a stance on controversial issues – that's where the fun and the learning begin!

I am available for parent conferences before or after school. To schedule a conference, send me an e-mail at sridal@somersetacademy.com. Class information is available at ridalhigh.com.

Procedures

Bellwork

You will have a daily bellwork topic to complete. You are to begin thinking and writing as soon as you come to class.

Class Notebook

Your work should be kept in a 3-ringed binder (no spiral notebooks). Suggested sections: Bellwork, Classwork, Notes/ Handouts, Research, Drafts. Keep all work returned to you. All papers should have the following: student's name, class period, date, assignment name.

Turning in Work

Assignments not turned in when requested might receive 60 percent or less regardless of when they are turned in to Ms. Ridal (classwork, homework, presentations). You must present during your presentation time to receive full credit.

You will need to create a professional G-mail account if you don't already have one, as sometimes you will be submitting items to Google Documents. Assignments should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman.

Missed Work

If absent for an assignment, you have as many days as you missed to make up work. If you miss a presentation day, you need to present the following class. If absent, work may be sent via e-mail or may be picked up if necessary. If an absence is unexcused, you may not receive full credit. You are responsible for turning in your excused notes to the front office.

Materials

You will need loose-leaf, college-ruled paper as well as pens, pencils, highlighters, a 3-ring binder, note cards, and a flash drive. Internet access is highly recommended to access assignments on ridalhigh.com, Pinnacle, and Google Docs. Some assignments will need to be typed and printed (12-point Times New Roman).

Guidelines for Classroom Conduct

Expectations

1. Respect yourself and show respect to others by taking responsibility for your actions and using good judgment.

2. Do not talk while Ms. Ridal is teaching or while others are presenting. Raise your hand if you have questions.

3. Come to class prepared and on time. Bring pencils, pens, paper, binder, textbooks, homework, and/or any other requested materials.

4. Be ready to learn and be open to ideas different from your own. Create a positive environment.

5. Follow guidelines as listed in the student conduct handbook.

Consequences

Students who disrupt the learning of others will first receive a warning depending on the severity of the disruption. Further violations will result in discipline procedures: parent contact, after-school detention, in-school suspension, and outside suspension.

Cheating, plagiarizing, and copying work will not be tolerated. Guidelines in the student conduct handbook will be followed.

Electronic devices are to be turned off and out of sight. If I see or hear the device, I will hold it until the end of the day. Upon the second infraction, I will bring the device to the front office for parent pick-up. The third infraction will result in after-school detention as well as parent device retrieval.

"Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Objectives

After completing this course successfully, students will be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and use of formal and informal listening skills.
2. Use various forms of formal and informal communication to discuss issues, debate others, and persuade audiences.
3. Utilize public speaking techniques to deliver communications effectively.
4. Utilize parliamentary procedure during debates.
5. Analyze one's own and others' formal and informal presentations.
6. Utilize presentation aids for public speaking.
7. Demonstrate skillful use of effective debate techniques.
8. Think critically and thoughtfully on topics, using research to support presentations.
9. Use a variety of electronic media and research to prepare in-depth presentations.
10. Work respectfully and effectively with fellow classmates during formal and informal presentations.

Grading

Tests (35%) Quizzes (20%)

You will have tests on concepts and terminology. Tests will be in multiple choice, matching, and short essay format. You will also have quizzes on skills that you are learning. Formal speeches and debates will count as test grades and will be graded according to a rubric. You must present during your scheduled presentation time. If you are not ready, points will be deducted. If you aren't prepared by the end of the presentation cycle, you will receive a zero. Please note that you must present in front of your classmates. If you have an excused absence and miss the presentation cycle, then you may be asked to videotape your presentation.

(15%) Homework Classwork (30%)

For homework you will research speech/debate topics, finish writing speeches/debates, and practice performing them. Classwork includes handouts, note taking, informal speeches and debates, and participating during class. Participation is critical, and you will be given points for actively participating during informal debates and discussions, remaining silent while others are presenting, and providing written feedback to your classmates. Debates are often completed in groups. If two groups are debating, a prepared group will not be penalized if the competing group is unprepared, and the unprepared group may be in jeopardy of receiving a zero.

Extra credit

Additional points will be offered for extra work above and beyond course requirements.

Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below