

ADVANCED LINCOLN-DOUGLAS

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Course Description

This course explores argumentation theory and advanced philosophical concepts in order to prepare debaters for Varsity competition in Lincoln Douglas Debate. Students work individually and in small groups to explore and develop quality arguments, and do in-class speaking drills and practice debates. LDers debate the NSDA topics, which change every two months. Prerequisite: Introduction to Lincoln-Douglas, Policy or Public Forum Debate.

Note: All parents are encouraged to join BOLD, the active parents organization, and to assist the team in fundraising and by judging.

Course Units, Goals, and/or Essential Questions

- Units 1-4 are built around the NSDA Topics.
- Unit 1 will examine the topic: **Resolved: The United States ought to require that workers receive a living wage.**
- The other topics will be announced throughout the school year.
- If we have anyone attending a National tournament, Unit 5 will focus on the Nationals Topic(s). If not, Unit 5 will explore some other type of debate, typically Student Congress, World Schools or Big Questions.
- As a result of their participation in the course, all students should improve their confidence and skill when speaking in public, their ability to do quality research and their ability to organize facts and expert opinions into persuasive written and spoken arguments.

Classroom Experience

Debate classes are meant to be interactive. Students do research, construct arguments, engage in group discussions, participate in debates and serve as mentors. Since students regularly evaluate one another, teaching everyone how to deliver appropriate feedback to their peers, and how to receive that feedback, is critical to the classroom experience. We will do in class practice debates, presentations on our research, and collaborate to create the strongest arguments..

Materials

Two Different Colored Pens/Paper to Flow on During Debates/Timer/ Headset/Wifi Connection/Laptop or Chromebook – Advanced LDers can still use Chromebooks, but since Chromebooks can't run Word or Verbatim they are more challenging to use.

Homework

Some research, case and block writing, and practice debate/tournament preparation, must be done at home. However, there are no officially designated “Homework Assignments.” Instead, homework is the completion of work begun in class, the filling out or turning in of required forms, or to the preparation needed for upcoming tournaments.

Assessments and Grades

All assignments are given point values and quarter grades are calculated based on the percentage of total points earned. Although the assignments are grouped into different categories on Aspen, the categories are not weighted. Writing a case or participating in a debate are the ultimate tests of mastery of the skills of debate, so we have relatively few tests/quizzes. The final exam grades are based on the number of tournaments each student actively participates at. All Varsity Students are expected to participate in a minimum of **four** tournaments per year **in addition to both** Lexington tournaments 11/23/2023 and 1/18-20/2024. Juniors and Seniors are also expected to judge. JUNIORS are required to judge 1 weekend-long tournament or 2 one-day tournaments. SENIORS are required to judge either: 1 weekend-long tournament AND a one-day tournament or 3 one-day tournaments. Judging and competing are both viable methods of participation, but competing will NOT count toward the judging requirement for juniors and seniors.

Extra-Help/ Support Available

I am available after school most days of the week when I am not in a required (usually Monday) meeting or at a debate tournament. I am also available to help students at debate tournaments, by email, on Slack or in the Zoom Zone. I encourage older students to regularly assist/mentor younger students.

Teacher Information

This is my eleventh year in Lexington and my 43rd as a teacher and debate coach. I have previously taught numerous Social Studies and English classes and am a member of the board of several state/national speech and debate organizations.

Additional Information

All students are expected to follow classroom and tournament rules and to contribute to a positive team and classroom climate. Classroom discussions about the Lexington Public Schools Core Values and how they apply to both our classroom and team environment have taken and will continue to take place. Students are not permitted to work with private coaches, or in external evidence collectives.