



**Class Title:** Red Debate

**Teacher Name:** Kassandra Moneymaker

**Class Day:** Monday

**Class Size:** 15

**Class Cost:** \$50

**Class Fee:** \$96

**Ages or color group served:** Red

**What level is this class:** Level 3

**Prerequisites:** Tools/ Speakers and requirements for class

Resources and Materials

Required Texts:

Current events articles from multiple news sources

Debate textbook or online resources

Access to research databases

Technology Tools:

Online collaboration platforms for research sharing

Timer and recording tools for practice

Fact-checking websites and resources

Community Connections:

Local government officials as guest speakers

Community leaders and professionals

University debate teams for mentorship

**Graduation Requirements:** Assessment Methods

Formative Assessments:

Daily participation and preparation

Peer feedback forms

Research worksheets and source evaluations

Impromptu speaking exercises

Summative Assessments:

Formal debate performances (40%)

Research projects and written arguments (30%)

Portfolio of work and reflection essays (20%)

Class participation and collaboration (10%)

Rubric Categories:

Argumentation: Logic, evidence use, structure

Research: Source quality, fact accuracy, depth

Delivery: Clarity, confidence, engagement

Listening/Response: Active listening, respectful disagreement, adaptation

**Homework Requirements:** Daily/ Weekly

### **Class Description:**

This curriculum develops critical thinking, public speaking, research, and argumentation skills through structured debate activities using current, relevant topics that resonate with high school students.

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

Construct logical arguments with evidence and reasoning

Identify and refute counterarguments effectively

Research credible sources and evaluate information critically

Speak confidently and persuasively in public settings

Listen actively and respond thoughtfully to opposing viewpoints

Understand multiple perspectives on complex issues

### **Week 1:**

Introduction to Debate Fundamentals

Topic Focus: Debate Basics and Current Events Overview

### **Learning Goals:**

Understand debate structure and terminology

Learn the difference between argument and opinion

Identify current issues relevant to students

Activities:

Icebreaker: Students debate simple preferences (pizza toppings, social media platforms)

Introduction to argument structure (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning)

Current events scavenger hunt - students find 5 recent news stories

Mini-debate: "Should high schools start later in the day?"

Assessment: Participation rubric, current events worksheet

**Week 2:**

Research and Source Evaluation

Topic Focus: Information Literacy in the Digital Age

Learning Goals:

Identify credible vs. unreliable sources

Understand bias and perspective in media

Learn effective research strategies

Activities:

Source evaluation exercise using real examples

Practice finding evidence for both sides of an argument

Introduction to fact-checking websites

Research workshop: "Social media's impact on mental health"

Assessment: Source evaluation quiz, research portfolio setup

**Week 3:**

Argument Construction

Topic Focus: Building Strong Arguments

Learning Goals:

Master the Toulmin model of argument

Learn to anticipate counterarguments

Practice evidence selection and citation

Activities:

Argument mapping exercises

Practice rounds: "Should colleges consider social media in admissions?"

Peer feedback on argument construction

Introduction to refutation techniques

Assessment: Written argument analysis, peer evaluation forms

#### **Week 4:**

Climate Change and Environmental Policy

Topic Focus: Environmental Responsibility vs. Economic Growth

Learning Goals:

Analyze complex policy issues

Understand stakeholder perspectives

Practice using scientific evidence in arguments

Debate Resolution: "High schools should require students to participate in environmental action projects for graduation"

Activities:

Research environmental policies and their impacts

Stakeholder role-play (students, parents, businesses, environmentalists)

Formal debate rounds with preparation time

Reflection on argument effectiveness

Assessment: Research brief, debate performance rubric

## **Week 5:**

Week 5: Technology and Privacy

Topic Focus: Digital Rights and Surveillance

Learning Goals:

Explore technology's impact on society

Discuss privacy vs. security trade-offs

Analyze generational differences in perspectives

Debate Resolution: "Social media companies should be required to verify user ages and restrict access for users under 16"

Activities:

Case study analysis (TikTok bans, data breaches, cyberbullying)

Expert testimony simulation

Cross-examination practice

Digital footprint awareness activity

Assessment: Case study presentation, cross-examination evaluation

## **Week 6:**

Education and Equity

Topic Focus: Access and Fairness in Education

Learning Goals:

Examine systemic inequalities

Understand the role of education in society

Practice arguing from different socioeconomic perspectives

Debate Resolution: "All public colleges should be tuition-free"

Activities:

Research education funding and student debt statistics

Simulation: College board meeting debate

Practice impromptu speaking on education topics

Community impact analysis

Assessment: Statistical analysis worksheet, impromptu speech scores

### **Week 7:**

Social Media and Democracy

Topic Focus: Information, Influence, and Political Participation

Learning Goals:

Analyze media's role in democracy

Understand echo chambers and filter bubbles

Explore youth political engagement

Debate Resolution: "The voting age should be lowered to 16 for local elections"

Activities:

Social media algorithm simulation

Political engagement survey and analysis

Town hall style debate format

Fact-checking exercise with recent political claims

Assessment: Research presentation, town hall participation

### **Week 8:**

Economic Issues and Future of Work

Topic Focus: Automation, Jobs, and Economic Security

Learning Goals:

Understand economic concepts and their real-world impacts

Explore career preparation and changing job markets

Analyze policy proposals and their consequences

Debate Resolution: "The federal government should implement a universal basic income pilot program"

Activities:

Economic impact simulation

Interview project with local workers about automation

Policy proposal development

Oxford-style debate format

Assessment: Policy proposal paper, interview reflection

### **Week 9:**

Health and Body Autonomy

Topic Focus: Public Health vs. Individual Choice

Learning Goals:

Navigate sensitive topics respectfully

Understand public health principles

Practice evidence-based argumentation on controversial topics

Debate Resolution: "Schools should provide comprehensive mental health services including therapy and counseling"

Activities:

Public health case studies

Ethical framework analysis

Fishbowl discussion format

Community health research project

Assessment: Ethical framework essay, discussion leadership evaluation

## **Week 10:**

Criminal Justice and Reform

Topic Focus: Fairness, Safety, and Second Chances

Learning Goals:

Examine justice system challenges

Understand rehabilitation vs. punishment philosophies

Analyze racial and economic disparities

Debate Resolution: "Restorative justice programs should replace traditional disciplinary measures in schools"

Activities:

Case study analysis of juvenile justice

Guest speaker: Criminal justice professional (Local Defense Attorney)

Mock trial simulation

Policy comparison research

Assessment: Mock trial participation, policy analysis paper

## **Week 11:**

Immigration and Global Citizenship

Topic Focus: National Identity and Human Rights

Learning Goals:

Understand global migration patterns and causes

Explore concepts of citizenship and belonging

Practice cultural sensitivity in argumentation

Debate Resolution: "DREAM Act students should have access to in-state tuition rates"

Activities:

Immigration story collection project

International perspective research

Model UN style debate

Community impact assessment

Assessment: Story collection presentation, international research brief

### **Week 12:**

Tournament and Reflection

Topic Focus: Synthesis and Application

Learning Goals:

Apply all learned skills in competitive format

Reflect on growth and learning

Set goals for continued development

Activities:

Class tournament with student-chosen topics from current events

Peer coaching and feedback sessions

Portfolio completion and presentation

Course evaluation and goal setting for future

Assessment: Tournament performance, portfolio presentation, self-reflection essay