

What Is a Debate?

Basically, a debate is an argument with rules.

In our debates, you will be given the topics ahead of time. It is your responsibility to research all of the topics and be ready to take a pro side *AND* a con side.

You will be debating as an individual.

The goal is to come up with a good argument and be knowledgeable on the subject.

Students are encouraged to read about [current events](#) and controversial issues to prepare .

A judge or a panel of judges will assign points based on the strength of the arguments and your professionalism.

Debate Facts: By participating on a debate team, students learn the art of [persuasion](#). Research has shown that participation in debates increases students' academic performance and increases their chances of earning a college degree. Many colleges offer summer programs that teach debating skills. Students benefit from preparing for debates by honing their research skills. Students also benefit from the experience of [speaking in public](#).

- Try Outs are the 2nd week of school
- 4 MANDATORY Meets from September- December (Usually held on Mondays from 3:30-8:00PM on dates provided at tryouts)
- Meetings 1x a Week
- Must commit to writing bills, doing research on own time, and being prepared for meets

Our League: Wayne Oakland Legislative Debate League (WODL)

Members: Edsel Ford, Novi, P-CEP schools (Canton, Plymouth, Salem), Dearborn High, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, South Lyon, South Lyon East, Northville

More Info:

Business Attire clothes required at Debate Meets (NO JEANS)

Men: nice pants/nice shoes/button down shirt/optional tie

Women: Skirts/dresses at knee or below, nice dress pants, no low cut shirts, nice shoes (do not need high heels- nice flats or low heels are good).

Arrive at the hosting school by 3:45. Chambers start at 4:00 this year. You are responsible for your own transportation there and back (you can set up carpools with your league friends). (DHS and EFHS meets: we need to arrive early (2:30) and stay late (9:00ish) to help set up and clean up at end of both meets)

ON YOUR BALLOTS: Make sure you write your name legibly and your school name!

BE PREPARED! There is nothing worse than a debtor unprepared. Make sure you have affirmations and negations...your chances of speaking will be greater and that

equals to more experiences and points! Rule is there must be an negation for every affirmation. If there is not one for one, the bill is tabled.

You will need a copy of your prep sheet for the judges. No prep sheet, no speech.

NO GUM!

NO PHONES in session - make sure they are turned off.

No notes to others during the session.

Pay attention to speakers- ask educated questions.

Always thank the judges.

***Have fun- get up to speak even if you are scared! All the "senators" are probably feeling the same as you!

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