

2010 - 2011 SPEECH & FORENSICS CLASS APPLICATION

Centennial High School believes that experiences in forensics can be educational, rewarding and productive if all those involved are dedicated to the same mission: that is upholding the Centennial High School Debate's tradition of excellence

It is this tradition of excellence that encourages first to develop an active listener, a student who will seek to understand all sides of an issue (whether world affairs or personal value choices). Students will find success in becoming intellectually proficient through research on the subjects of speeches, and through researching argument focusing on the National Forensics League debate topics. In addition, students will apply our shared vision for better public speaking through numerous opportunities of self expression in and out of school. By the end of the course, students will be able to articulate any opinion, even one that may be unpopular. Students will also learn to speak for those who have no voice. Through this course, students in the CHS forensics program learn to be leaders in not only academics, but also community. Ultimately, the CHS Speech and Forensics student will come to see him/herself, as both an individual leader as well as an active participant in a dynamic culture of competitors

ALL PORTIONS OF THIS APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO G65 BY 2/19/2010!

General Information:

Name: _____

Current Grade Level: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Current English Teacher: _____

1st Semester English Grade: _____

Current English Level (Circle One): College-Prep Honors AP

Acceptance into this course is a highly-coveted honor. Understand that you are competing with a large pool of students and only 20 total Speech I – II, III, and IV students will be accepted. With that in mind, fill out the essay portions of this application thoroughly and thoughtfully. There will be a waiting list, so if you are initially rejected, there is still a possibility of being accepted.



RESEARCH ON SPEECH AND FORENSICS:

(AKA: WHY SHOULD I JOIN THIS CLASS?)

Famous Folks Who Did Forensics:

Jim Belushi *Jed Jurner* **John Belushi** *Adam Sandler* **MICHAEL STIPE**
Nelson Mandela *Margaret Thatcher* Robert Shapiro Johnny Cochran Lyndon Johnson
Richard Nixon *William Jennings Bryant* **Samuel Alito** *Antonin Scalia* **Bill Clinton**
JOHN F KENNEDY **Arlen Specter** *Oprah Winfrey* **JANE PAULEY** *Tom Brokaw*
ROGER EBERT *Zel Miller* **BRAD PITT** *Karl Rove* **Woodrow Wilson**

Raises GPA and test scores: "This isn't just an 'egghead effect,' where students who read well just get better," Collier said. "For the first time, this study quantitatively shows the power of debate on all students' reading and comprehension abilities—an effect previously noted only in teacher and student anecdotes."

Open Society Institute (2004-2008).

Ultimately, research shows that participation in competitive debate activities is, "unmatched by any other academic activity that a student might engage in [sic]" (Parcher). Problem solving and analogy questions make up a large part of the standardized tests, as do vocabulary. The problem solving, research elements, vocabulary and use of analogy and argumentation in a forensics class rival any other class in a high school program (sometimes more than one class). All essay questions on the tests ask for a basic extemp/policy format—a format seen in every debate tournament. Testmakers want a statement, three reasons, and justification for each reason.

College Acceptance: "Successful applicants to top schools still need to demonstrate academic success in their coursework as well as perform well on standardized tests, but the days of a 4.0 GPA and 1600 SAT score guaranteeing admission into a top school are gone. In 1998, Harvard University rejected over 50% of its applicants with perfect Scholastic Aptitude Test scores and 80% who were valedictorians... The Wall Street Journal report did specifically highlight a 'consistent trend' — one that forensic coaches have known for a long time — that dedicated participation in debate has significantly increased the success rate of college applicants at all schools which track such data. State and national award winners have a 22% to 30% higher acceptance rate at top tier colleges and being captain of the debate team 'improved an applicant's chances by more than 60% compared with the rest of the pool,' according to the report."

Luong 2006

It's fun:

"Debate is everything. There is no other activity where you can meet hilarious people as smart as you and then school them in why you are always right."

"I use debate stuff every single day—either in class or arguing with my friends. I always win."

"Debate gives you confidence. I know when I'm president, I'll need that."

"The skills you learn in debate help you in all your classes."

"Debate means travel, too much caffeine, and staying up late arguing with kids from Texas."

"Being on the debate team helps your arguing skills- great for future use on parents."

Participation Requirement

2. Like other performance classes, debate requires performance with other people who have prepared. For that reason you will be required to attend at least **six rounds** of competition per year; the easiest way to reach this goal is through tournament participation. Centennial High School Debate is a nationally recognized program that requires students to put in hours outside of class. So too, you must remain vigilant in your in-class participation. If your grade drops below an 80 in the first semester, you will be removed from the class semester two. This grade includes taking notes on in class debates and discussions. If you do not seem to show interest in the subject matter, are unable to keep up with college-style debate, and can not participate appropriately in Socratic seminar style learning, you will be removed from the class. There will be a waiting list kept for empty slots when students are excused from the program. If you are initially rejected, there is still a possibility of late entry. Please keep these policies in mind when you apply.

Return your application to Coach Kohanim in G65 by Monday, February 19, 2010.

Official Statement:

If I am selected by *The CHS Debate Knights* to be a member of next year's speech and forensics class:

- I agree to attend at least **six** rounds that require outside class time. .
- I understand that acceptance into this class is a highly coveted privilege that can be revoked any time. Appropriate participation is a requirement that I am prepared to fulfill.
- I understand that if my grade falls below an 80 in the first semester, I will be removed from the class for second semester.
- I understand that participation in the debate team is not *required*, but is highly **encouraged**.

Student Signature / Date: _____

If my student is selected by *The CHS Debate Knights* to be a member of next year's speech and forensics class:

- I understand he/she must attend at least **six** rounds that require outside class time. .
- I understand that acceptance into this class is a highly coveted privilege that can be revoked any time. Appropriate participation is a requirement that my child is prepared to fulfill.
- I understand that if my student's grade falls below an 80 in the first semester, he/she will be removed from the class for second semester.
- I understand that participation in the debate team is not *required*, but is highly **encouraged**.

Parent Signature / Date: _____