

# Debate Team

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## Participation Guidelines

Greetings from The Oaks debate coach!

I am excited to announce a fun and formative opportunity for 9-12th graders this debate season. Last year, Oaks debate team membership reached record numbers (nearly 40 competitors!), and the team enjoyed remarkable competitive success. This year, we are pleased to offer after-school **team practices** on Mondays and Thursdays, that we might sharpen our swords for battle in a unified community of competitors. These practices will run from **3:00-4:00** and will consist of a number of activities, all aimed at forming greater wisdom and skill in the art of debate. Attending **at least one practice per week** is mandatory for all team members. The total cost for participation in Oaks debate (including tournament entry fees) will be **\$150**.

Our first team practice will be held on **Thursday, September 26th**, in Rm. 2.

**9th graders**, you are invited to attend after-school practices, but are not required to do so (see the **summer email** for more information about 9th grade debate requirements). Your team membership fee would be reduced to **\$75**.

**Again, participation in team practices is entirely optional for 9th graders. The fees for the two required tournaments are covered by The Oaks.**

Please **contact me** (Coach Woodroof) at **(509) 688-9671** or **[emily.h.woodroof@gmail.com](mailto:emily.h.woodroof@gmail.com)** if you plan to participate. And of course, I am delighted to answer any and all questions about The Oaks debate program! I look forward to another splendid season.

**(Membership details** on the following pages. Please **read carefully**, as there are a number of changes this year.)

## Guidelines for Debate Team Membership:

### - Practice Expectations:

- 2x week (M/Th), 60 minutes, 3:00-4:00 (may ask questions until 4:15)
- Practices will include:
  - Drills
  - Topic/strategy discussions
  - Practice rounds
  - Tournament debriefs
  - Case workshops
- Please **come prepared** with past cases, current research materials, and note-taking materials (**no laptops/tablets, please**)
- Treats will be served! If you'd like to bring a treat, let Coach Woodroof know
- Team members are expected to attend at least **one practice per week**
  - Our first practice will be held on **Thursday, September 26th**, in Rm. 2.

### - Tournament Expectations:

- At each debate tournament, all team members should plan to stay until all Oaks competitors have been eliminated. Parents are welcome to request exceptions, as needed.
- **9th/10th** graders are expected to **compete** in at least **two** tournaments (at least one on each topic) and to **observe** at least five Varsity (Open) rounds (at least two of which do not involve an Oaks debater).
  - It would be best to observe a complete tournament, but students can spread out the observation rounds between two or more tournaments. These observation rounds, together with the mentorship program described below, will encourage an **apprenticeship model** for learning the art of debate.
- **11th/12th** are expected to compete in at least **three** tournaments (at least one on each topic)

- **Mentor Expectations**

- 11th/12th participants will also be responsible for a small group of 9th/10th grade team members.

- **Mentorship** includes:

- reading 9th/10th cases and offering constructive feedback
- observing 9th/10th rounds and offering constructive feedback (both in practice and at tournaments, when possible)

- **Parent Opportunities and Expectations:**

- Parents are invited to assist Coach Woodroof with coordinating:
  - Treats for team practices
  - Team dinners
  - Library field trip
  - Tournament transportation
  - Substitute judges
- Parents are expected to **judge one out of every two tournaments** in which their child competes. Parents of 10th-12th graders who would prefer not to judge are responsible for hiring a substitute (please feel free to collaborate with other team parents).

**(Tentative Tournament Schedule on the next page)**

2019-2020 GSL Debate Schedule (Tentative)

\*\*\*First Topic (will be posted by the National Speech and Debate Association on Oct. 1)

October 25-26                      Rookie Rumble – East Valley High School  
**(11th and 12th graders may judge)**

November 8-9                      Welcome to the Jungle – Lewis and Clark High School

November 22-23                      Viking Invitational – Coeur d’Alene High School

\*\*\*Second Topic (will be posted on Dec. 1)

January 10-11                      Conway Classic – Gonzaga University

January 24-25                      Southside Invitational – Ferris

January 30-February 2                      Foley Invitational – University High School