

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Policy debate teaches students a number of important academic skills, including logic, argumentation, research, writing and public speaking, all within a social sciences context. Students will develop evidence-based cases they will advocate at this school year's tournaments.

This year, national high school policy debate will focus on the following resolution:

***Resolved:** The United States federal government should substantially reduce its military and/or police presence in one or more of the following: South Korea, Japan, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq, Turkey.*

TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments are an exciting opportunity for you to practice your debating skills, to meet other LAUSD debate team members, to compete for the DMHS Debate Team, and to earn points toward your final grade. Our DMHS Debate Team is a member of the Los Angeles Metro Debate League (LAMDL), which is part of the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues. As such, we will be competing with about many other LAMDL teams during six tournaments this year. Transportation from DMHS will be provided to all tournaments, which take place on Friday afternoons and Saturdays.

Students are expected to debate during tournaments, and to flow all rounds, including those that are observed. Flow charts are graded and make up a major percentage of students' grades.

ATTENDANCE

Policy debate is an interactive and team-oriented activity. Therefore, regular attendance is required during Advisory classes, after-school practice sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and at all six tournaments throughout the year (three each semester).

Regular attendance is essential for you to succeed. A missed school day is a missed opportunity that cannot be repeated. Students receive points for completing assignments each day. It is your responsibility to complete missed work immediately if you had an excused absence. Otherwise, late work will not be accepted. We do not assign extra credit work.

ASSESSMENTS

Everything we do for class – every discussion, reading and writing assignment, classroom activity, debate tournament, and homework assignment – contributes toward a final grade. Many assignments are assessed based on your progress. Other assignments assess your level of mastery (summative assessment) and are given letter grades.

Summative Assessments are based on the following percentage scale

(40-300 points):

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% and below

Progress Assessments are based on the following (20 pts):

- /+ skill was acquired (A)
- / progress was made towards acquiring a skill (C)
- /- little progress or effort made (D)
- 0 incomplete or not turned in

RESOURCES

A majority of this year's evidence and curriculum will be posted on the DMHS Debate Team's PBWorks wiki, which you will be invited to join. Other internet web sites that we use include the following:

[DMHS Debate Team WIKI](#)

This is our team's wiki, where you can find some debate resources, upload documents and other files, and discuss materials.

[DMHS Team File Collaborative File Share](#)

This is like a "favorites" file where you can bookmark websites (evidence) and share them with the team. You can also highlight and take notes online.

[DMHS Debate Team Blog](#)

This is our team's blog, where you can discuss evidence and arguments, or ask questions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

[Ms. DePaolo](#)

Mr. Chao

Sincerely,

Ms. DePaolo and Mr. Chao