

ACES Learning Center Course Syllabus D108: Advanced Argumentation and Debate

Course Description

Speech economy, flow, moral, policy, and legal argumentation are the final skills every good debater needs to master. In Advanced Argumentation and Debate students will have the ability to hone these skills by participating in the most challenging debate event; policy debate. Students will be tasked with developing their speech economy, their flow, and their speed-reading abilities. By the completion of this course, students will be able to make moral, policy, and legal arguments comfortably.

Course Objectives and Student Competencies:

Students Will:

1. Develop argumentation and reasoning skills
2. Develop persuasive reasoning skills
3. Learn how to use moral, legal, and policy arguments to structure a powerful case.

Major Topics:

1. Policy Debate
2. Stock Issues
3. Counter-Plans
4. Disadvantages
5. Critiques

Class Structure:

1. Speech, Debate or Improvisation Warm-Ups
2. Completing Homework Speeches
3. Introduction to New Policy Issue
4. Debate Practice

Course Schedule:

Date	Topics	Homework
Week 1	Introductions, policy debate explanation, introduction to “spreading,” and policy flow	Practice spreading and policy flow; topic research
Week 2	Policy topic briefing; explanation of affirmative and negative cases, duties, and burdens of proof	Begin research affirmative cases

Week 3	Introduction to the stock issues; topicality, solvency, inherency, harms; affirmative case workshop	Select and begin highlighting affirmative case
Week 4	Affirmative case reading workshop; begin discussing negative stock issues	Research negative stock issue arguments
Week 5	Disadvantages; negative and affirmative case workshop	Prepare Disadvantages and Disadvantage answers
Week 6	Counterplans; case workshops	Prepare Counterplans and Counterplan answer files
Week 7	2AC, 2NC, 1NR, 1AR, 2NR, 2AR, and speech duties; how to construct a policy rebuttal	Complete a “cookie-cutter” rebuttal file
Week 8	First policy debate	Rebuttal re-do’s, flow re-do’s
Week 9	Second policy debate	Prepare rebuttal re-do’s, and flow rewrites
Week 10	Third policy debate	Prepare final case adjustments, rebuttals, and A2 files
Week 11	Policy debate tournament	None