

Everyday Debate: A Course on Debate and Discussion



Wise, Winsome, and Winning Discussion and Debate

Everyday Debate

The goal of *Everyday Debate* is to teach you how to conduct wise, winsome, and winning discussion and debate. This class will teach you how to gather evidence and develop arguments to support a proposition; several common debate formats; the attitudes of a wise and winsome debater/discusser; and the various skills needed to conduct a strong debate.

Required Texts

1. *Everyday Debate*, Shelly Johnson (Available with Classical Academic Press and on Amazon)
2. Supplemental videos and texts provided by Mrs. Morgan on Schoology and also can be found at <https://classicalacademicpress.com/everydaydebate/>

Attendance and Assignment Completion Policies

- Please make sure that you attend class regularly and are on time. While recordings of live sessions are a helpful tool for occasional absences, they are not a sufficient replacement for class participation. With that in mind, Scholé Academy allows a maximum of 3 absences for a one-semester course that meets 2x/week.
- If you are absent from class, your written work will still be due the same day unless an extension has been prearranged.
- Since this is a class of debate and discussion, please understand that absences will affect your grade. Most spoken work (debates) cannot be made up and will usually receive a “0”.
- Please complete and submit your assignments by the day and time they are due through our class’s Schoology page.
- Late assignments receive 25% less credit per day, unless you receive an extension from me before the due date.

Contacting Me

Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns you may have. I will **usually** respond within the 24-hour period but may not be able to respond before then. Out of courtesy to me, please begin your letters by addressing me “Mrs. Morgan” or “Amy” or some similar form of greeting. Please also sign your name at the bottom. I will certainly show the same courtesy to you.

Classroom Etiquette

I take your class time very seriously and ask you to do the same as well. In order to cultivate a classroom in which people can concentrate well, please adopt the following habits:

- Be on time to class.
- Avoid leaving class unless it is an emergency.
- Please give your full attention to whomever is talking.
- If you must leave early, let me know ahead of time and
- Do not read or work on the computer or other materials during class
- Avoid sleeping in class.
- Please have your video on at all time so we can see you, but please mute your mic unless you are talking (this cuts down on background noise).

Please note that I determine if class behavior is disruptive, and behavior of this kind can result in a lowered participation grade.

Grade Policy

Your final grade will consist of the following point delineation:

15 Sets of Reading Notes	150 points (10/ea)
12 The Big Debate Activities	120 points (10/ea)
4 Learning from the Masters Short Essays	120 points (30/ea)
10 Smaller (weekly) Debates	100 (10/each)
Daily Participation (on time, prepared, respectfully engaged)	60 points (2 points daily)
1 Large Debate	40
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	590 Points Total

Grading Scales

A=100% to 90%	Magna Cum Laude: 95%-100%
B=89% to 80%	Cum Laude: 85%-94%
C=79% to 70%	Satis: 75-84%
D=69% to 60%	Non Satis: 74% and below
F=59% or below	

Homework: You can expect about 2-3 hours of homework a week outside of class.

Office Hours:

If you are struggling with an assignment or have a question that was not sufficiently addressed in class, please feel free to stay in office hours with me on Wednesdays. I will be happy to help you! The goal of office hours is to answer specific questions you have or develop strategies for particular assignments you are struggling with.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Do not plagiarize or cheat. All papers and assignments must be your own work. While you may get help from parents or tutors with brainstorming, organizing, and proofreading your papers, the writing and rewriting of your paper should be your own work.

Schoology

I will be posting our class syllabus, assignments, class recordings, occasional other links and PowerPoint slides to Schoology, so please check Schoology for updates regularly throughout the week. Class recordings will be posted within 24 hours after class. Please make sure you can access Schoology or that you get help from your parents if you are having problems accessing it.

Sample of Class Calendar

Week	IN CLASS	WRITING DUE	READING DUE
Week 1	Introduction, Discuss Everyday Debate (ED) text & Movie Clips from <i>Great Debaters</i>	Reading Notes 1 (Wed)	Required: Chapter 1 Optional” Watch movie <i>The Great Debaters</i> , PG-13)
Week 2	ED, Discuss readings	Reading Notes 2 (Mon) Review Ex pp. 22 & 23 (Wed)	Mon: Plato’s Euthyphro Wed: Chapter 3, pp. 19-23
Week 3	Quotation, ED & Big Debate (BD) activities from Chapters 4 & 5	Euthyphro Essay & Reading Notes 3 (Wed)	Mon: pp. 35-37 Memorize quote & preparations in Everyday Debate section Wed: Read Ch 5, pp. 39-43
Week 6	<i>Mon:</i> Discuss Intell. Sq Debate. Practice analogies <i>Wed:</i> Discuss Ch 10 & 11, Review quotes, Practice Causal Relationships	<i>Mon:</i> use pp. 84-86 for note taking in prep for discussion <i>Wed:</i> Reading Notes	<i>Mon:</i> Watch Intelligence Squared debate <i>Wed:</i> Chapters 10-11
Week 7	<i>Mon:</i> Small Debate <i>Wed:</i> Chapter 12 & 13 Discussion	<i>Mon:</i> Small Debate Preparation <i>Wed:</i> Reading Notes Ch 12	Chapter 12 & your assigned portion of Ch 13