

# HMDC Elementary Debate Class (Summer 2024) - Handbook

July 7, 2024 to July 29, 2024 (14 Sessions)

## Why We Debate

Debating is an important activity that helps us build essential skills for future success. It teaches us to think critically and creatively, communicate clearly and confidently, and to respect the opinions of other people. Through debating, we learn to research topics, construct arguments, and present our ideas confidently. These skills are not only valuable for academic success but also for our future careers and our personal growth.

### Skills Developed Through Debate:

- **Critical Thinking:** Evaluating information and forming reasoned judgments.
- **Creative Thinking:** Coming up with new ideas and solutions.
- **Clear Communication:** Expressing thoughts effectively and persuasively.
- **Research Skills:** Gathering and organizing information on various topics.
- **Constructing Arguments:** Building logical and evidence-based cases.
- **Public Speaking:** Presenting ideas confidently in front of an audience.
- **Respecting Viewpoints:** Understanding and appreciating different perspectives.
- **Problem-Solving:** Finding solutions to complex issues through discussion.

### How I Plan to Use These Skills in My Future

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**IMPORTANT:** Participating in debate, helps us prepare for future challenges and opportunities. Debate helps us to think quickly, make informed decisions, and to express our thoughts clearly and confidently. These skills are crucial for our future success in both school and our future careers.

## HMDC Elementary Debate Class (Summer 2024) - Handbook

July 7, 2024 to July 29, 2024 (14 Sessions)

### The Three Debate Burdens (Explained)

Understanding the Three Debate Burdens—proof, refutation, and rejoinder—is important for becoming a strong debater. Mastering these skills allows us to create well-supported arguments by finding and presenting strong evidence. When we use proof, we show our audience why our points are valid. Refutation helps us effectively challenge the opposition by identifying weaknesses in their arguments and explaining why they are incorrect. Rejoinder lets us defend our points against counterarguments by responding to the other side's challenges and providing additional evidence. By learning and applying these burdens, we can present our ideas convincingly, respond thoughtfully to opposing views, and maintain the strength of our arguments throughout the debate. This not only helps us win debates but also improves our overall communication and critical thinking skills, which are essential in many areas of life.

#### Importance of the Three Debate Burdens

- **Making Stronger Arguments:** The Three Debate Burdens help us make strong and clear arguments. By using proof, we back up our points with solid evidence, making them more convincing.
- **More Convincing to the Audience:** These skills are essential for convincing the audience and judges. Refutation allows us to show why the other side's arguments are wrong, making our side stronger.
- **Improving Thinking/Speaking:** Learning these burdens improves our speaking and thinking abilities, which are valuable in school and future careers. Rejoinder helps us respond to counterarguments, showing that we can think on our feet and defend our position effectively.

#### Understanding the Three Debate Burdens

- **Burden of Proof:** We must provide evidence/reasoning to support our arguments.
  - Find strong evidence from reliable sources to support our points.
  - Organize the evidence clearly to make your argument easy to understand.
  - Explain how the evidence supports your argument to make it convincing.
- **Burden of Refutation:** We must challenge/disprove points made by the other side.
  - Listen carefully to the other side's arguments to understand them fully.
  - Identify any weaknesses or mistakes in their points.
  - Use evidence and reasoning to explain why their arguments are wrong.
- **Burden of Rejoinder:** We must defend our arguments from opponent's rebuttals.
  - Be prepared to respond to the other side's challenges to your arguments.
  - Stay calm and explain why your original points are still valid.
  - Provide additional evidence if needed to strengthen your position.

## HMDC Elementary Debate Class (Summer 2024) - Handbook

July 7, 2024 to July 29, 2024 (14 Sessions)

### Writing Arguments

Writing strong arguments is an important skill in debate. It helps us present ideas clearly and persuasively by teaching us to organize our thoughts and provide evidence for our points. By doing this, we make our arguments more convincing and easier for others to understand. This skill is valuable in school because it helps us write better essays and participate in class discussions. Additionally, being able to make strong arguments prepares us for future careers where clear communication and critical thinking are essential.

#### Why Writing Arguments Matters

- **Organizing Thoughts Clearly:** Writing arguments helps us put our thoughts in order and present them in a way that is easy to understand. This can make our ideas more convincing.
- **Supporting Points with Evidence:** Writing arguments teaches us to back up our statements with facts and reasoning. This makes our arguments stronger and more reliable.
- **Skills for School and Careers:** Learning to write arguments improves our ability to think critically and communicate effectively, which are essential for success in school and being successful in our future careers.

#### Understanding the Argument Writing Process

- **Statement:** We make a clear statement using the words of the debate topic to show what our evidence/ideas can prove. This is the main point of our argument. ex. "Owning exotic pets will threaten our health."
- **Reasoning (because...):** We explain why our statement is true by providing reasoning based on our research and evidence. This helps connect our evidence to our statement, making our argument clearer and easier to understand. ex. "Because exotic animals carry diseases which can be spread from the owner to others in the community (like spreading it to other kids at school)."
- **Evidence/Examples (For example...):** We now support our statement and reasoning with some facts or examples. This shows that our argument is based on reliable information and will make it more convincing. Also, we should try to use more than just a single piece of evidence when providing proof for our arguments. ex. "For example, some exotic pets like reptiles can carry salmonella (sal-muh-nillah), which can cause serious illness in humans. Also, birds can spread diseases that can make people very sick, like bird flu."

By following these steps, we can write strong and effective arguments that clearly present our ideas and can help to really persuade our audience to support our side of the topic.

Please continue to the next page for some argument outlines for us to practice from...

## **HMDC Elementary Debate Class (Summer 2024) - Handbook**

July 7, 2024 to July 29, 2024 (14 Sessions)

### **Arg-01 (PRO): Increasing Education & Learning**

Owning exotic pets will increase education and learning.

*Because...* taking care of exotic pets requires research and learning.

*For example...*

*First...* Preparation Requires Research

*Our research states...* Owners must do research about their exotic pets' specific needs, like diet, habitat, and health care. By studying where these animals live and how they behave, owners can learn a lot more than they would from owning a regular pet.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets will help people learn more because it requires finding out a lot about these exotic animals, which helps us understand science better.

*Also...* Opportunity to Educate Our Friends

*Our research states...* Sharing information about exotic pets with our friends can make learning fun. When owners talk about their pets' unique traits and why they need protection, it makes others curious and more interested in learning too.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets increases not just our learning but for our friends too.

*Therefore...* Owning exotic pets WILL increase education and learning. Thank you.

---

### **Arg-01 (CON): Causing Health & Safety Risks**

Owning exotic pets will cause health and safety risks.

*Because...* exotic pets can carry diseases and pose safety risks

*For example...*

*First...* Spreading Dangerous Diseases

*Our research states...* Exotic pets can carry diseases that can be spread to humans. When we handle and provide care for these animals we increase the risk of these diseases being to their owners who can spread it to other people living in the community.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets can cause serious illnesses for many people.

*Also...* Serious Safety Concerns

*Our research states...* Exotic pets can pose physical dangers due to their natural behaviors as large reptiles, big cats, and other animals can cause serious injuries if they feel threatened or are not properly contained.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets can lead to serious injuries because these animals may act unpredictably when they are stressed or handled improperly.

*Therefore...* Owning exotic pets WILL cause serious health and safety risks. Thank you.

## HMDC Elementary Debate Class (Summer 2024) - Handbook

July 7, 2024 to July 29, 2024 (14 Sessions)

### Modes of Persuasion (Aristotle)

Understanding Aristotle's Modes of Persuasion—ethos, pathos, and logos—is important for being an effective speaker and debater. These modes help us build trust, connect with our audience's feelings, and use clear reasons. When we show we know what we are talking about (ethos), people trust us more. By appealing to emotions (pathos), we make our audience care about our message. Using clear and logical reasons (logos) helps people understand and agree with our ideas. By mastering these skills, we can persuade our audience more effectively and make stronger arguments in our debates.

#### Importance of Aristotle's Modes of Persuasion

1. **Building Trust:** The Modes of Persuasion help us build trust with our audience. When we can show that we are knowledgeable and trustworthy, people are more likely to listen to us and believe what we say. This is crucial for effective communication and helps us make a strong impact in debates and discussions.
2. **Engaging the Audience:** These modes help us connect with our audience on an emotional level. When we can make our audience feel something, they are more likely to pay attention and care about what we are saying. This engagement makes our arguments more memorable and persuasive.
3. **Presenting Clear Arguments:** Using the Modes of Persuasion helps us organize our thoughts and present our ideas logically. This clarity makes it easier for our audience to understand and follow our arguments. By presenting well-structured and reasoned arguments, we can make a stronger case and are more convincing.

#### Understanding the Modes of Persuasion

- **Ethos (Credibility):** Ethos is about showing the audience that we are trustworthy and know what we are talking about. We build credibility by using information from reliable sources and by speaking confidently. When the audience believes we are credible, they are more likely to listen to and accept our arguments.  
ex. Using facts from a well-known book or trusted website can make our argument stronger because the audience trusts where the information comes from.
- **Pathos (Emotion):** Pathos involves connecting with the audience's feelings. We use stories, examples, and emotional words to make the audience care about our argument. When people feel connected, they are more likely to be persuaded.  
ex. Telling a story about how an animal was helped by a new law can make the audience feel happy and support the law.
- **Logos (Logic):** Logos is about using clear and logical reasoning to support our arguments. This means presenting facts, data, and explanations that help the audience understand and agree with our point of view. Logical arguments are important because they provide strong reasons for our claims.  
ex. Using outlines can help our audience to better follow along with what we are saying - people will understand things better when our ideas are well-organized.

