

HMDC Elementary Debate Class (Summer 2024) - Syllabus

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

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description:

This course focuses on developing essential skills such as critical thinking, confident speaking, and showing respect for others' viewpoints. Through public speaking and debate, students will build self-confidence and learn to see issues from multiple perspectives, promoting empathy and understanding. Each week features research topics and engaging activities to make learning enjoyable. By participating in daily speeches and debates, students will improve their research and communication abilities in a supportive environment. This course also emphasizes the importance of 21st-century skills, including communication, teamwork, and critical thinking, which are vital for success.

Instructor Information:

Bill Eddy aka "Coach Bill"

billeddy@gmail.com

Phone: 1.714.655.8135

General Information (Pacific Time – Los Angeles):

Day & Time: Sunday-Wednesday, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Starts: Sunday, July 7th (ends: July 27th) = 14 Meetings

Homework: <https://21stcenturyresearch.cn/class-elementary-debate-hmdc/> (Please bookmark this page).

Online Meetings Using "Zoom"

Debate Class (Summer 2024):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88412927310?pwd=oFcv1Bwza525OR7MCHvcOR7aGRwfp.1>

Password = Already included in the above link (so, no password is needed).

Class Expectations

- We must be respectful not just to the teachers but to each other.
- Cameras remain on with face being fully visible (mic off unless speaking).
- Please arrive prepared with enough energy to give a speech if called upon to do so.
- Homework will be limited so as not to interfere with your existing workload.
- *We debate every session* - students are encouraged to find/bring fun topics to the class.
IMPORTANT: If someone is speaking everyone is listening; it's about showing respect.

Textbook/Handbook:

Debate Textbook: None. This is primarily a 'doing' course - most of the learning comes from the activities designed to build thinking, speaking, and collaboration skills.

Student Handbook (PDF): <https://21stcenturyresearch.cn/> (will be sent to parents via email).

Materials Needed:

Electronic device (using a PC/Laptop is highly preferred).

Writing Utensils, & Paper (Students may be asked to take some written notes).

Key Concept of the Course

This course focuses on developing skills in critical thinking, confident speaking, and respectful collaboration. We believe in our ability to express ourselves clearly and confidently. We aim to be problem-solvers who advocate for our beliefs and show respect for others, even when they disagree. Respect for ourselves and others is essential for success and leadership.

Weekly Research Topics

Week 01: Owning Exotic Pets

Week 02: [Energy Debate] Nuclear Power, Natural Gas, and Clean Coal (+Geoengineering).

Week 03: [Renewable Energy] Solar Power, Wind Power, and Geothermal Energy.

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General Plan for the Course

This course is about learning by doing. Most learning will come from debating and using research. Much of the research will be provided, but extra reading can help. Debates can be intense, so it's important to show respect and kindness, especially to those nervous about public speaking.

We will debate in every session, starting with simple topics. Research topics will be given in advance. The first month will focus on learning debate skills, then we will use those skills in full debates. By the end of the course, we will be ready for debate tournaments.

IMPORTANT: Students must come prepared to speak and debate. There will be reading and writing assignments due at the start of each meeting, except for the first one. These assignments are needed to join in the activities. Only parents can excuse students from homework.

Technology and Communication

Let's help make the course enjoyable for everyone. Show up prepared and keep the camera on at all times (unless the teacher gives special permission). Check that the camera, microphone, and speakers are working properly before each class. Do not wait until the last moment to do homework assignments. Notify the teacher right away if there are trouble accessing learning materials or if emails are not received.

Class Schedule and Topics

Week 1: Exotic Pets

Day 01 (July 07, 2024): Understanding the Benefits of Debate & Learning the Three Debate Burdens

Day 02 (July 08, 2024): Making Arguments in Debate & Using Rebuttals to Disagree

Day 03 (July 09, 2024): Understanding Rejoinders in Debate & Creating "Voting Issues"

Day 04 (July 10, 2024): Researching Effectively & Writing Evidence for Debate

Week 2: Current Energy Debate

Day 05 (July 14, 2024): Reviewing Evidence (Topic 2) & Crossfires (Topic 2 & Misc.)

Day 06 (July 15, 2024): Writing Debate Outlines (Some) & Crossfires (Topic 2 & Misc.)

Day 07 (July 16, 2024): Practicing Full Debates (Topic 2) & Crossfires (Misc.)

Day 08 (July 17, 2024): Practicing Full Debates (Topic 2) & Crossfires (Misc.)

Week 3: Renewable Energy

Day 09 (July 21, 2024): Reviewing Evidence (Topic 3) & Crossfires (Topic 3 & Misc.)

Day 10 (July 22, 2024): Writing Debate Outlines (All) & Crossfires (Topic 3 & Misc.)

Day 11 (July 23, 2024): Practicing Full Debates (Topic 3) & Crossfires (Misc.)

Day 12 (July 24, 2024): Practicing Full Debates (Topic 3) & Crossfires (Misc.)

Week 4: In-Class Competition

Day 13 (July 28, 2024): In-Class Tournament Using Topic 3 (Full Debates)

Day 14 (July 29, 2024): In-Class Tournament Using Topic 3 (Crossfire Champion)