

Speech and Debate

Ms. Karen Allen

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Textbook:

In Class textbook: Sharpen Your Debate and Speech Writing Skills: Enslow Publishers \$7.95
Research and projects will require the use of books in the media center. Sometimes the books will be provided in the Debate classroom for use during class time; other times, students will have to check out books for their own personal use. Students are expected to treat the borrowed books with care and respect.

Lost/damaged book policy:

Students are financially responsible for all books issued by Hopewell Middle School. Textbooks may not be left in classrooms, and teachers are not responsible for students' books once books have been issued to the student. The copy issued to the student must be turned in at the end of the course. Students will not receive credit for turning in another student's book, and students may not turn in replacement books. The cost of replacement will be assigned to any student that fails to turn in the exact book she/he was issued and/or to any student that turns in a damaged book. If a student is issued a damaged book (i.e. broken binding, torn pages, water damage, writing, etc.), please bring it to the attention of the teacher immediately in order to obtain a replacement book or to document the damage. There is a two-week grace period for students to document damage before the student will be held accountable.

Grading Information:

Classwork and class participation	30%
Tests, Quizzes	35%
Projects (Speeches, Debates)	35%

Students will be giving speeches through the course. Topics will vary. Discussions will also occur in class based on real world topics and issue, especially ones presented in the news.

Speeches are graded based on:

30 % Topical and content

35 % Verbal communication (voice, projection, enunciation, time awareness, etc.)

35 % Nonverbal communication (posture, eye contact, gestures)

Late work will be accepted but points will be deducted if turned in after the due date.

Classroom Rules and Expectations:

Debate is a unique subject that is truly brought to life in person. As such, active participation will be crucial to your success in this class. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, with a positive attitude. Students are encouraged to ask questions and offer opinions that will help them and their classmates understand the material better, and listen respectfully during debates, discussions, and speeches, etc.

The class rules have been set up so that each student has the opportunity to work in an environment that is conducive for learning. Individual students and disruptive situations will not be permitted to interfere with instruction or the learning environment.

All Students are expected to

- Accept personal responsibility. Be prepared for class each day.
- Be respectful at all times of others and their opinions.
- Conduct yourself in a safe manner at all times.
- Strive for excellence in all that you do.

Honor Code and Plagiarism:

Student assignments turned in for grading should be the sole work of that individual student. To prevent cheating and plagiarism, students may not collaborate with other students or adults on their assignments unless the teacher has given specific permission to do so. This includes the giving or receiving of information in any manner, including electronically. In situations where collaboration is allowed, the teacher will clearly define what level of collaboration is appropriate. Under no circumstances is it acceptable for two students to submit identical work, unless the assignment included a group component that makes it permissible. Students are encouraged to consult with their teacher regarding what level of collaboration is acceptable prior to completing and submitting their work.

HMS Plagiarism Statement: A particular kind of honor code violation occurs with plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's words or ideas and the presentation of them as though they are entirely one's own. Acts of plagiarism include but are not limited to using words or ideas from a published source without proper documentation; using the work of another student (e.g., copying another student's homework, composition or project); using excessive editing suggestions of another student, teacher, parent, or paid editor. Unless directly stipulated by the teacher, collaboration on written work is not acceptable. Students who willingly provide other students with access to their work are in violation of the Honor Code.

Home Access Center:

As you may already know, Hopewell Middle School has a program called Home Access Center that allows you to view your child's academic progress and attendance on-line. You may contact the school for information on how to obtain a log-on password to your account. Due to limited access to a telephone during the day, the best way for us to keep in contact with you is by email. My email is allenk2@fultonschools.org