

Debate 1 Overview (distributed to parents on Open House night)

Debate 1 is an introduction to competitive forensics. You know what competitive means, so does forensics mean dead people? Obviously, NO! According to Webster's Dictionary, forensic means public discussion and debate, and that's exactly what we do. Jupiter High School's Speech and Debate Team is HUGE and includes your child who is required to compete in just one of the 24 tournaments we attend.

In class, the students are taught:

- the different events in forensic competition, and they have an opportunity to try each one.
- Also, we spend a good deal of time on creating and supporting logical argumentation.
- We discuss logical fallacies so that the students can tell the difference between a valid argument and an invalid one.
- We spend time discussing and writing debate cases that employ research skills, logical argumentation, and speaking skills.
- We encourage teamwork and supporting each other so that shy students feel comfortable enough to try something new.

Grades are calculated by adding together classwork grades (each assignment counts as 100 points) and speech grades (which count as 200 points each). Late assignments are accepted with 10 points off for each day that the assignment is late.