

Debater's Code of Conduct

Participation in classroom debates provides you with an opportunity to develop critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills. To ensure that debates remain a constructive and respectful learning experience, you are expected to adhere to the following ethical obligations:

1. Respect and Civility

- Treat all participants—opponents, teammates, and the audience—with respect, regardless of differences in opinion.
- Avoid personal attacks, insults, or derogatory comments about others' views or identities.
- Actively listen to opposing arguments without interrupting or dismissing them prematurely.

2. Integrity and Honesty

- Represent arguments accurately and honestly without misrepresenting data, sources, or your own position.
- Avoid logical fallacies or deceptive tactics to manipulate the audience or undermine your opponent unfairly.
- Properly attribute all external sources and ideas to their original authors.

3. Open-Mindedness

- Engage with opposing viewpoints thoughtfully and with a willingness to reconsider your own perspective if evidence warrants it.
- Participate in the debate as an exercise in collective truth-seeking. Aim to learn from the debate, not merely to "win" it.

4. Preparedness

- Conduct thorough research and preparation to present well-informed, evidence-based arguments.

- Ensure all claims are supported by credible evidence, and be prepared to answer questions about your sources.

5. Collaboration

- Work collaboratively with teammates to develop cohesive arguments and strategies.
- Respect the contributions of all group members and give everyone an opportunity to participate.

6. Ethical Persuasion

- Use persuasive techniques responsibly, focusing on facts, logic, and clarity rather than manipulation or emotional appeals that exploit vulnerabilities.
- Refrain from sensationalism, exaggeration, or fear-mongering in presenting your case.

7. Accountability

- Accept responsibility for any errors in your arguments, and correct them promptly when identified.
- Be willing to acknowledge the strengths in your opponent's case, even as you defend your own position.

8. Inclusivity

- Ensure that arguments and language used in debates do not marginalize or discriminate against any individual or group.
- Be mindful of diverse perspectives and cultural sensitivities when constructing arguments and examples.

By committing to this Code of Conduct, we all can foster a learning environment that values fairness, intellectual rigor, and mutual respect, ensuring that classroom debates contribute meaningfully to academic and personal growth.

