

Hello Families of Debate Club Participants!

Class Highlights:

The kids are continuing to determine affirmative and negative arguments about the topic. Each school will utilize the same evidence, such as news or magazine article reports, but will arrange and emphasize the evidence differently, depending on each team's decisions.

Your student may conduct research at home, but it is not assigned or required. Homework for Debate Club is not assigned, however, students are encouraged to practice the activities taught by the Debate Club Coach.

Other in-class practice activities have included speaking with eye contact and clarity, games that challenge kids to think on their feet, articulate a rebuttal or to further support an argument, and to 'flow', which means to take notes during another's speech in order to keep track of presented arguments.

Vocabulary: Ask your student about this word:

Refutation: The act of making an argument against an argument presented by your opponent. Example:

(Debater 1) Peanut butter is good because it is smoothy.

(Debater 2) My opponent says peanut butter is good because it is smoothy, however, I believe peanut butter is bad because the smoothiness gets stuck on my hands and makes a mess.

Here is a more thorough example of refutation, referred to as Four-step refutation, that includes the 4 components 'they say', 'I say', 'because', 'therefore':

Speaker 1: *Bananas are better than oranges because they contain more potassium.*

Speaker 2: *Speaker 1 says that bananas are better than oranges, but I disagree. Oranges are better than bananas because they contain more vitamin C. Therefore, you should prefer oranges because while many foods in an ordinary diet contain potassium, few contain an appreciable amount of vitamin C. It is more important to eat oranges whenever possible than it is to eat bananas.*

Information:

Family email letters, and information about the tournament and our debate format is posted on the SSIA website, and remain there for your reference: www.schoolsinaction.org, click on Debate. Contact me with questions at any time! sandynielsen@schoolsinaction.org

Tournament will be held on the morning of Saturday, May 22nd.

Topic: Seattle Public Schools should change to a year-round school schedule.

No Debate Club class the week of spring break, Mar. 29 – Apr. 2.

-Sandy Nielsen
Debate Program Manager