

HHS Debate Guide

2008-2009

Officers:

President – Josh Casto
Vice President – Garrett Otrimski
Clerk – Emily Gagliardi
Mentor – Liz Schultz
Mentor – Chris Werner

Advisors:

Ms. Morrison
Mr. Ryalls
Mr. Fenster

Web Page: <http://www.hhsdebate.org/>
Forums: <http://www.hhsdebate.org/forums>

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Members of the esteemed HHS Debate Team:

Another year is upon us. We students are returning to school to begin classes, to participate in activities, and – most importantly – to meet friends new and old. And whether you’re a seasoned senior or a flustered freshman, you’ve taken the time today to attend the first meeting of HHS Debate. I’m really glad you’ve come today, and do feel free to chat with me or the other officers after the meeting – we’d certainly like to talk to you. As the witty Bilbo Baggins put it, “I don’t know half of you half as well as I should like; and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve.” Therefore, the advisors, officers, and I are making a notable effort this year to reach out to the student body more effectively – not just to recruit new members, but to train the leaders of tomorrow.

This club is perhaps the most accomplished in the school. At yearly Model Congress and UN conferences, we have racked up team and individual awards – notably at the local Rutgers Model Congress, where we have won a team award eight years running. Though our many awards are notable achievements, the club’s proudest achievements are found in the citizens it produces. Some members have joined the club with limited knowledge of politics, yet were able to develop so remarkably, leaving the club as active citizens. After graduating, these same members have gone on to make an impact on the world, whether as a member of political think-tank, as a counselor helping women, or as a lawyer dealing with business issues. We hope to continue this legacy this year and in the years to come.

Former members frequently claim to have only one regret – not joining or participating in the club soon enough. Indeed – and I cannot stress this enough – get involved now. This club is a worthy investment, and if you put in enough time, energy, and dedication, you will be rewarded with skills, knowledge, and character. It’s worth taking the time to participate in our weekly Wednesday meetings.

At these meetings, you’ll develop your public speaking skills for use at conferences and in real-world events. Timid members falsely believe they aren’t good enough to make a speech, or are afraid of wording their jumbles. Don’t be afraid of making gaffs – even the best of us do. As long as you approach the podium with confidence, you will be respected. Conquer your fears and build your self-esteem as you develop your rhetoric.

To make a good speech, however, you need good facts. Therefore, do your research. Be sure to thoroughly and thoughtfully research the topic ahead of time, as the ill-prepared member is the ill-fated member. Research is integral to effective debating. People are more likely to believe your argument – or at least regard it as credible – if you back it up with evidence. Gather facts, statistics, and research beforehand for a more intelligent debate. Don’t forget, you can prepare for the meeting on the forums (lift our head up for the URL). These online discussions give all members a chance to debate the issues before and after the meetings. Prepare well, and you shall debate well.

Because HHS Debate gives so much to our members, we provide ways for you to give back. Members are asked to volunteer at the various fundraisers throughout the year. From the Rummage Sale at the year’s start to Unplugged at the year’s end, from Battle of the Bands to Shelter from the Storm in between, the fundraisers are a really fun way to interact with other members, building friendships as we earn money for the club. All the money goes back to you anyway, as the club uses its funds to subsidize the more expensive trip. Participation can earn you AdvisorBucks, which allow you to subsidize the cost of the trip even further.

Every member, I feel, should go on as many conferences as they can afford. We're kicking off this year with Rutgers U. Model UN, followed by John Hopkins U. Model UN in late February, Duke U. Model UN in early March, and Rutgers Model Congress in mid-April. These four trips will be wonderful experiences full of learning, bonding, sightseeing, eating, and – of course – debating. The conferences run akin to our weekly meetings, with the same basic parliamentary procedure. Researching every week for the meeting will help you when you start researching for conferences. I know we will do fantastically at all four conferences this year, and I encourage everyone to try and attend them.

This is just a brief overview of the club. Don't worry, you'll know the ins and outs of Debate Club politics before you know it. Keep your eyes on your goals, and you won't go astray. The advisors, the officers, and I are here to help you on your journey.

Let's do this.

Best regards,

Josh Casto

HHS Debate Members:

Hillsborough High School Debate has evolved from a few students sitting around with one advisor in a room fourteen years ago to an organization that has had over 50 members holding weekly meetings and specialty debates. But there is so much more to the club than these Wednesday meetings. As a member of this club, you will have the opportunity to go on some of the four trips that we attend each year. Every year we attend conferences at Rutgers and in years past, we have traveled to New Haven, Philadelphia, Washington DC, San Francisco, England and even Germany. This year we will also be traveling to North Carolina. We run the school's Battle of the Bands, the Variety Show, and Unplugged. At these events, our members run the entire show as directors, stage crew, sound and lighting, ticket takers and ushers. We also have the Gavel Club, a parents' organization, which assists in our fundraising events. With the help of your parents, our organization raises thousands of dollars each year to help defray costs of travel and conferences, purchase our technology to put on even better events, and put on our amazing year-end banquet.

Every year, it seems like more and more underclassmen are joining this organization and becoming better public speakers within a few meetings. At our weekly meetings, every member will have chance to give speeches, ask questions and help write bills or resolutions. The advisors and mentors also get to work with and assist each newer member. The newest members have chosen a great year to join and with a little practice can help us run this club by serving as an officer or mentor in a year or two.

If you just can't get enough of the weekly meetings, thought up another point on the ride home after a debate or want to discuss a topic before a meeting even begins, there is a way how. At www.hhsdebate.org/forums you can debate the issues, talk about other political events that are not debated at our meetings, ask for help and find out key information about the club and trips. This is where the advisors post information and where you will find our legislation. Get involved on the forums as quickly as possible; you can even look back at the thousands of posts there from the past few years.

Whether you are a freshman attending your first meeting or a senior returning for your fourth year, the Debate Guide has a tremendous amount of information to assist you in any way. Take the time to read through it over the next few days and bring it with you to every meeting and even on trips you may attend. The Guide has invaluable reference materials for every debater, cheat sheets for parliamentary procedure, a list of perambulatory clauses for United Nations' resolutions... in short, everything you need to participate.

We welcome you to the 15th year of HHS Debate!

Ms. Morrison

Mr. Fenster

Mr. Ryalls

**HHS Debate
Calendar 2008-2009**

September

- 10 - Congress – Iraq
- 17 - UN Work – Genetically Modified Foods
- 24 - Congress - Immigration

October

- 1 - UN Debate - Genetically Modified Foods
- 8 - Congress – Housing Crisis
- 15 - UN Work – Nuclear Proliferation
- 22 - Election Simulation
- 24 - Rummage Sale (setup)
- 25 - Rummage Sale
- 29 - UN Debate – Nuclear Proliferation

November

- 12 – Congress – Gun Control
- 20 – RUMUN begins

December

- 3 - UN Work – Kurds
- 5 - Battle of the Bands Tryouts
- 10 – Congress – Patriot Act
- 12 - Battle of the Bands
- 17 – UN Debate - Kurds

January

- 7 - Congress - Abortion
- 14 - UN Work – Child Marriage
- 28 – Congress – War on Drugs
- 30 – Variety Show Tryouts

February

- 4 - UN Debate – Child Marriage
- 5 – Variety Show Rehearsal
- 6 – Variety Show
- 11 - Congress – Prison Reform
- 18 – DUMUNC begins
- 25 – Congress – Native Americans

March

- 5 – JHUMUNC begins
- 11 - UN Work – Clean Water
- 18 - Congress – Social Security
- 25 - UN Debate – Clean Water
- 27 - Shelter From the Storm 4 Concert
- 28 - Shelter From the Storm 4 Festival

April

- 1 - Congress - Outsourcing
- 15 – UN Work – Failed States
- 16 – RMC begins
- 22 – Congress – Private Military Companies
- 29 – UN Debate – Failed States

May

- 6 – Congress - NASA
- 13 - Congress - Prostitution
- 27 - Banquet

June

- 5 - Unplugged
- 13 - Picnic

ONLINE EXTENDED DEBATE GUIDE

Need additional information? Find these topics online:

<http://hhsdebate.org/debateguide/>

Helpful United Nations Information

General Assembly Committees.....	A-1
Economic and Social Council / International Court of Justice.....	A-2
Security Council / Secretariat.....	A-3
Major International Agreements and Treaties	A-4
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Chairing.....	C-3
Timekeeping.....	C-4
Ticket Selling	C-5

NEED HELP?

Contact Your Friendly Officers with any questions or concerns!

Josh Casto

Home: (908) 281-9336
Cell: (908) 448-7283
Email: joshcasto@gmail.com

Garrett Otrimski

Home: (908) 281-6974
Cell: (908) 229-4643
Email: gotrimski@gmail.com

Liz Schultz

Home: (908) 281-4382
Cell: (908) 415-9383
Email: el.schultz@mac.com

Chris Werner

Home: (908) 281-6057
Cell: (908) 285-9620
Email: cwernerdex@msn.com

Emily Gagliardi

Home: (908) 359-6578
Cell: (908) 566-7277
Email: EmtheToxicgirl@aol.com