

2026-2027 Varsity Speech & Debate Syllabus

First Semester: Debate

1. Introduction to Argument
2. Fallacies and Responses
3. Team Policy Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate
4. Researching the Topic
5. Case Structure
6. Negative Arguments
7. Speech Organization
8. Cross Examination
9. Flowing the Round
10. Practice Rounds

Additional topics covered throughout the year:

1. Reasons for Debate
2. Resolutional Analysis
3. Evidence Standards
4. The Art of Persuasion
5. Voting Issues
6. Judge Adaptation
7. Parliamentary Debate
8. Advanced strategies

2026-2027 Stoa Team Policy Resolution:

Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially reform its agricultural policy.

2026-2027 Stoa Lincoln-Douglas Resolutions:

1. Resolved: Liberty ought to be prioritized over order (Fall 2026 - January 31, 2027)
2. Resolved: In regulating emerging technologies, governments ought to prioritize caution over innovation (February 1- NITOC)

First semester: Speech

1. Limited prep speeches
2. Platform speeches
3. Interpretive speeches
4. Wildcard speeches
5. Apologetics
6. Extemporaneous
7. Original Oratory
8. Open Interpretation
9. Storytelling

Additional topics covered throughout the year:

1. Invention/Brainstorming/
Research
2. Arrangement/Outline
3. Elocution/Writing
4. Memorization
5. Delivery

Assignments:

1. Apologetics (or another limited prep speech)
2. Original Oratory (or another platform speech)
3. Open Interpretation (or another interpretive speech)
4. Storytelling (or Slam Poetry)