

# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DEBATE!

**Practices:** Plan to attend after school practices a MINIMUM of three nights a week from 2:45-4:55pm. You will be excused in time to ride the activity bus. Practices consist of a combination of large group sessions and individual practice sessions. The beginning of the season focuses more on the large group activities to help you learn all that you need to debate successfully.

**Season calendar:** Although eventually beginners and advanced debaters attend the same tournaments (they are just entered in different divisions such as novice, junior varsity, and varsity), the season begins in different stages for different debaters. In October, tournaments generally take place on Saturdays (all day until about 5:00pm) and in November and December, the tournaments are sometimes on Friday evenings and Saturdays. Novices will begin competing the first week of October so that you have enough time to prepare adequately for competition. **PLEASE REVIEW THE TOURNAMENT CALENDAR DATES PROVIDED.** Conflicts must be noted in advance.

**Tournaments:** Debates take place in classrooms in a low-key atmosphere. Each preliminary round consists of only the pair of debaters and a judge. There are usually a series of preliminary rounds and then a final round. You will alternate sides, thus you will be prepared to debate both for and against the idea.

**Activity Fee:** For Freshman, one fee covers all fine arts activities that you plan to be involved in during the year. For grades 10-12, the fee covers most fine arts activities you plan to be involved in. In addition, each student is responsible for fundraising \$25.00 to defray tournament costs. Fundraising options will be explained during the season.

**Remember:** Debate Rocks! It's a valuable, rewarding, challenging, fun activity that will truly make a difference in your life. You will earn awards in the National Forensic League, a special insignia on your diploma, a letter, and opportunities for local, state, and national recognition and travel. Debate is highly regarded by universities and employers so you are taking a step you need towards future success. All in all, given what debate has to offer, you really can't lose. Decide to be an AVHS Debater!

# TRYOUT PROCEDURE

## **You've decided to tryout for the AVHS Debate Team!**

You have the opportunity to become part of an exciting, challenging and fun program at AVHS. The tryout process is very simple. All you need to do is sign up for a 5 minute time slot on Monday, September 8th on the Speech and Debate Board outside of Room 107. We would like to hold all tryouts on Tuesday, September 9th, but can accommodate some tryouts on Wednesday, September 10th if you cannot tryout on Tuesday. If both days do not work for you, please see Mrs. Wycoff outside room 107 or room 152 for special arrangements. Here's all you need to do:

- Fill out the information and tournament availability sheets provided and bring it, signed by a parent, with you to tryouts.
- Prepare a 1-2 minute speech either arguing for or against the statement: "Capital Punishment is justified." The side you present is your choice. You may include your personal opinions and ideas you've learned from classes or discussions in the past, but we would also like you to use some specific information from the research provided.

**HINT:** Organization is your friend! You might want to present 2-3 main reasons within your speech and support each reason by stating specific evidence or ideas. You may use notes to help you remember your ideas, but try to use eye contact and your best delivery skills. Convince us of your view. Be prepared to answer a few questions about your views on capital punishment. Please work to make this your best effort---being organized and prepared with your information sheet and mini-speech is important.

**It's that easy! Thank you for your time and effort ---- GOOD LUCK!!**

# CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IS JUSTIFIED

***The U.S. public supports capital punishment.*** Thirty-eight states have enacted capital punishment statutes, which reflect the support of both the general populace and their leadership as to the appropriateness of capital punishment.

Jorge Carro, Professor of Law at the University of Cincinnati Law School, *VITAL SPEECHES OF THE DAY*, August 1, 1996, p. 629 "Four of every five Americans, or 77 percent, favor the imposition of the death penalty for certain crimes."

***Studies show that capital punishment deters murder.***

**Wesley Lowe, Rochester Institute of Technology, September 9, 1998**

"During the temporary suspension on capital punishment from 1972-1976, researchers gathered murder statistics across the country. Researcher Karl Spence of Texas A&M University came up with these statistics, in 1960, there were 56 executions in the USA and 9,140 murders. By 1964, when there were only 15 executions, the number of murders had risen to 9,250. In 1969, there were no executions and 14,590 murders, and 1975, after six more years without executions, 20,510 murders occurred. So the number of murders grew as the number of executions shrank. And more recently, there have been 56 executions in the USA in 1995, more in one year since executions resumed in 1976, and there has been a 12 percent drop in the murder rate nationwide."

***Capital punishment is not revenge.***

**Paul Baumann, editor, COMMONWEAL, May 19, 1995, p.4**

"Justice demands we treat criminals as moral agents responsible for their actions, and that we assume such moral responsibility ourselves. To be sure, retribution must not be just a fancy word for revenge. For that reason, murder is regarded as an assault on the moral order and the community as a whole."

***Capital punishment expresses moral outrage.***

**Joel M. Gore, *Due Process of Law*, 1979**

"Capital punishment is an expression of society's moral outrage at particularly offensive conduct. This function may be unappealing to many but is essential in an ordered society that asks its citizens to rely on legal processes rather than self-help to vindicate their wrongs. Indeed the decision that capital punishment may be the appropriate sanction in extreme cases is an expression of the community's belief that certain crimes are themselves so grievous an affront to humanity that the only adequate response may be the penalty of death."

# CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IS NOT JUSTIFIED

## **Capital punishment is inconsistent with valuing life.**

Hugo Adam Bedau, Professor of Philosophy at Tufts University, *THE CASE AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY*, American Civil Liberties Union Freedom Network, 1997

*“An execution is a violent public spectacle of official homicide, and one that endorses killing to solve social problems—the worst possible example to set for the citizenry. Governments worldwide have often attempted to justify their lethal fury by extolling the purported benefits that such killing would bring to the rest of society. The benefits of capital punishment are illusory, but the bloodshed and the resulting destruction of community decency are real.”*

## **Capital punishment can not deter crime.**

Hugo Adam Bedau, Professor of Philosophy at Tufts University, *THE CASE AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY*, American Civil Liberties Union Freedom Network, 1997

*“When crime is planned, the criminal ordinarily concentrates on escaping detection, arrest, and conviction. The threat of even the severest punishment will not discourage those who expect to escape detection and arrest. It is impossible to imagine how the threat of any punishment could prevent a crime that is not premeditated. Gangland killings, air piracy, drive-by shootings, and kidnapping for ransom are among the graver felonies that continue to be committed because some individuals think they are too clever to get caught.*

## **Capital punishment kills innocent individuals.**

Laurence A. Grayer, Associate, Margolis & Edelstein, *DENVER JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY*, Summer, 1995, p. 566

“There are documented cases of evidence being produced to vindicate an individual who has already been executed or who was on death row awaiting execution. In 1987, researchers documented 350 cases in which 325 defendants, whose guilt was serious doubt, were convicted of murder; 119 of them were sentenced to death. Cases such as these have lead to erroneous convictions, as was the conviction of Kirk Bloodsworth who served nine years on death row in New York until a DNA test established his innocence.

# INFORMATION SHEET

## TURN IN AT YOUR TRYOUT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

English Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle one: Accelerated English or English 9/10

Math Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_  
Math Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle which house you are in (if in 9th grade): ALPHA BETA GAMMA OMEGA

*(Feel free to attach a TYPED sheet of these responses if you need additional space)*

1. Why would you like to be a member of the debate team?
2. What other activities are you involved with during the fall and until the end of December? BE COMPLETE.
3. Please LIST any potential conflicts with:
  - A. After-school practices (2:45-4:55)
  - B. Friday and Saturday tournaments (please review the calendar provided)
4. What priority to you anticipate debate will be for you during this season?
5. Please list any prior speech, theater, debate or declamation experience and/or related achievements.

# NEW STUDENT TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

**TURN IN AT YOUR TRYOUT**

Date	Tournament Location	Availability (Mark Yes or No and indicate conflict)
Saturday, October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Jefferson HS (Bloomington)	
Friday & Saturday, October 10-11 <sup>th</sup>	University of Minnesota	
Friday & Saturday, October 17-18 <sup>th</sup>	Hopkins HS	
Friday & Saturday, October 24-25 <sup>th</sup>	Henry Sibley HS (Mendota Heights)	
Friday & Saturday, October 31-November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Eagan HS	
Friday & Saturday, November 7-8 <sup>th</sup>	Apple Valley HS	
Friday & Saturday, November 14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	Highland Park HS (St. Paul)	
Saturday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Robbinsdale Cooper HS	
Friday & Saturday, December 5-6 <sup>th</sup>	Novice/JV State (Eagan HS)	
**Tournaments and Dates are subject to change!!!		

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_