

Name: _____

Potential Speech and Debate Class Members

In evaluating potential students for Honors Speech and Debate, three areas are of utmost importance.

First, grades are significant but not everything. If you have a strong interest in public policy, debate, or expressing your thoughts and opinions, tryout.

Honors Speech and Debate requires commitment. This course involves Saturday participation and travel. Each semester requires approximately three to four tournaments (including Youth and Government and the ACSI Speech Meet) with the potential of more. A student must practice and be prepared to be competitive. Grades are based on excellence and not solely on participation.

When selecting class members, the needs of the team are considered. Debate is a team activity. Interpretation involves solo performers or, at most, duos (groups of two). This class focuses on public forum and congressional debate. PF debate is a prerequisite for the first year.

Students are encouraged to review the website, www.nationalspeechanddebate.org, and email Mrs. Robinson (robinson@nrcaknights.com) with any questions.

The try out involves four sections. First, you give a brief personal statement (no longer than two minutes). Current team members may ask you questions about yourself, your likes, and dislikes. Each student also gives another two-minute presentation taking a position (pro or con) on the below resolution. Again, you will be asked questions. We are currently debating this. Do not rely on AI.

Resolved: The United States federal government should ban corporate acquisition of single-family residences.

Another section involves answering current event questions from the class. An impromptu speech closes the tryout process. This is typically a fun topic that a student would consider fun to talk about.

Acceptance into this class also requires parental involvement. You will be responsible to have one/both of your parents or an eligible adult judge potentially several times a year. Judging is a commitment of travel and time, typically an entire Saturday.

Trying out is a commitment to the class. If you are selected to join, you may not casually decide on a different elective or simply drop. You committed and, most probably, took a spot that could have been filled by someone else.

Please complete the following information and bring this form with the required signatures.

Name

Email

Cell phone number

Briefly state why you would like to join Speech and Debate. Give reasons in order of importance.

List your extra-curricular activities (athletics, fine arts). If you are involved with an AAU travel team, please include the details. Will you be taking any AP classes next year which will require a 7:00 lab? If so, how many?

I understand that trying out for Honors Competitive Speech and Debate binds me to the team if I am selected.

Student signature _____

Parent signature _____