

Forensics Class Management Plan

2017 - 2018

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to another great year of James Logan High School Forensics! We are excited to take over the program under the guidance of Dr. Lindsey and look forward to another year of academic and competitive excellence. To get this new season started smoothly, staff has diligently worked on retooling some major components of the program in order to enhance your experience as either a student or parent of the team. Please take some time to go over this Class Management Plan, as it outlines the changes that we have made and the grading system that we will be using to evaluate student performance. Once you have reviewed this material, both students and parents will need to sign and date the signature page and return it to your student's Dramatic Interpretation period by **Thursday, September 7, 2017**.

Sincerely,

Jesse D. Garrett
Co-Director of Forensics
Email: JGarrett@nhusd.k12.ca.us

Justin Kurup
Co-Director of Forensics
Email: JKurup@nhusd.k12.ca.us

Director office hours: available via appointment.

Program Website

Please visit www.JamesLoganForensics.com to see updates and communication regarding our program.

Grades

Student grades will be composed of four sections:

1. Overall Participation (40%)
2. In Class Participation (20%)
3. Tournaments (20%)
4. Quizzes & Tests (20%)

Participation

Overall

Every student in Forensics, at a minimum, will now be required to compete in both **ONE Speech event** (*International Extemporaneous, National Extemporaneous, Original Oratory, Oratorical Interpretation, Original Advocacy, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Thematic Interpretation, Expository, or Impromptu*) & **ONE Debate event** (*Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, Congressional Debate, or Parliamentary Debate*).

Students success in this class will be measured by competition readiness. Overall participation includes, but is not limited to:

- Participating in both an individual event and a debate, which includes attending after school practices
- Competition ready submission of all required materials by deadlines (including properly formatted script cuttings, accurate ISBN information for all literary selections used in the piece, and completed works cited pages in MLA format for original speeches)
- Meeting all deadlines determined by Directors (i.e. tournament sign-ups, state qualification script submissions,, permission forms, etc.)
- Quality of work for competition materials (i.e. Debate cases, revisions, etc.)
- Competition readiness (determined by in-class performances and/or session evaluations by coaching staff and directors)

After school practice is necessary for students to become and maintain competition readiness in their events. Therefore, regularly scheduled, and ad hoc, practice opportunities will be offered for every event. Regular student attendance at after school practices is required to maintain eligibility to be invited by Directors to invitational tournaments.

In Class

Dramatic Interpretation, a.k.a. “Forensics,” is designed to teach students skills in public speaking, engage them in critical analysis of current events, and prepare students for upcoming competition. For Debate events, students will be given research and case writing assignments that will be due in class and/or directly to their debate coaches. For Individual Events, students will be provided with coaching sessions, in class critiques, and performance workshops. Additional assignments that develop skills needed for Speech & Debate competition, college readiness, and the professional workforce will be assigned (i.e. class essays, news notes, reflections and responses, etc.). Participation in all of these assignments are expected and a requirement that makes up 20% of a student’s grade. All assignments will receive a letter grade and points will be deducted for ill-prepared and/or incomplete assignments. Acceptance of late assignments, and point deductions for late work, will be at the sole discretion of the Directors.

The standard Golden Gate Speech Association (GGSA) ballot ranking system will be used to evaluate in class performance and assign grades. Example: a 6minute speech (out of a 10 minute max time) would receive a ranking of 4th on the ballot, equaling a letter grade of C.

Tournaments

Every student in the class is eligible, and required, to attend Golden Gate Speech Association (GGSA) League tournaments for the events they compete in. In order to attend invitational tournaments, students must be invited by Directors of the program directly and must have fulfilled all of their NHUSD and class requirements. It will be the sole discretion of the coaching staff and Directors to determine whether a student is competition ready to travel with the team and that decision will be heavily predicated on:

- School attendance and GPA.
- In class performances.
- Evaluations of event specific assignments.

1st Semester: Students will be required to attend FOUR tournaments during the semester (TWO Debate & TWO Individual Event tournaments). This requirement may be met by attending GGSA league tournaments and/or by competing at an invitational tournament in both a debate and speech event. Every student on the team is required to attend Congress #1 in September, regardless of their debate event in order to earn enough points to activate their membership in both GGSA and the NSDA for the competitive season.

2nd Semester: Since there are fewer tournaments in the Spring semester, students will be required to either compete in, or volunteer at, TWO tournaments. Volunteer responsibilities will include setup/breakdown crews, tournament runners, and food service crews. Additionally, there may be special assignments that are assigned that may count toward extra credit toward the Tournament portion of your grade.

****EVERY STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO EITHER COMPETE IN OR VOLUNTEER AT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT HOSTED AT JAMES LOGAN. ****

Parents are required to judge at a **minimum of 4 tournaments per competitive season**. All students competing at the State Qualifying and/or NSDA Nationals Qualifying tournaments **MUST** provide a judge in order to be eligible to compete.

Communication

There will be a tournament schedule that is sent home at the beginning of the year for competitors and their parents to select the tournaments that they are interested in attending. Parents/Guardians will receive information sheets from the Directors and permissions will be sent home and made available before every competition.

It is the student's responsibility to sign up for tournaments at least TWO weeks in advance. Students who have not registered for GGSA League tournaments by the entry deadline will be ineligible to compete, per strict enforcement criteria of the league bylaws for the 2017-2018 season. Students are to inform program directors directly (not a class TA, team officer, or an event coach) of any drop situation in advance by the assigned drop deadline for each individual tournament. If a student drops from a tournament after the deadline, and has not provided an emergency justification verified by a parent, there will be a penalty to their tournament participation grade. Additionally, all no show situations will result in an automatic grade penalty.

Finally, any and all carpool situations need to be approved by coaching staff personally. Parents should not drive other students to tournaments, without this approval, as we have a legal obligation to ensure the safety of every student when traveling. Any parent providing transportation services on behalf of the program must have a valid and NHUSD approved Driver Data Form on file with the school administration prior to transporting any students, other than their own.

If a student is unable to meet the tournament requirement, the student will need to communicate this to Directors in a timely manner. Makeup assessments may be given in place of a tournament and will be determined on a case by case manner at the discretion of the coaching staff.

Quizzes / Tests

Occasionally, there will be quizzes and tests based on the material covered in class (i.e. news, movies, books, etc.). These assessments will account for 20% of the total grade. There will be a final exam for every student enrolled in the program.

Extra Credit

There will be limited opportunities for students to earn extra credit in class. Directors will present these opportunities to individual students as they arise. **ALL EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GIVEN IN AN EQUITABLE MANNER BY THE DIRECTORS AND GIVEN TO EITHER A SPECIFIC STUDENT, GROUP OF STUDENTS, OR THE ENTIRE CLASS.**

Qualifying Tournament Competition Agreement

Over the last few years, we have experienced a large number of last minute drops from tournaments that students qualified for or were invited to attend. These cancellations are extremely costly for the program in terms of planning logistics, entry fees, and travel options. Therefore, we are continuing the implementation of this policy to ensure that students are held accountable for tournament sign-ups barring any emergencies. **By signing this agreement if a student competes at a qualifying tournament and earns a bid to the subsequent tournament, they agree to also attend that tournament.**

Forensics Class Management Plan Agreement

I understand what my responsibilities are in order to earn my grade in Dramatic Interpretation and I agree to all of the aforementioned terms and requirements.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Grade: _____ Period: _____ ID: _____ Phone: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name (Printed): _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Signature: _____