

FROM THE TEACHER

Dear Parent (name)

I have been looking for some new and different ways for our class to have more fun and get more engaged in learning those subjects the students love and even those they sometimes don't like. We all have subjects we love and those we don't, and they are different for each one of us.

I have found a classical system handed down from many years ago with some great new twists – the system can be called speech, argumentation, rhetoric, or in class debating – it doesn't matter what it's called. It's a fun way to learn and empowers everyone to have a voice.

I've found a place that provides classes like ours with free guides for us to customize to in-class debating, filled with fun games, puzzles, exercises and things to do that really help us learn in new, easy ways. Students can also begin learning other languages at the same time – it's easy and fun this way! Following basic guidelines I have re-edited this book to fit our class, thinking of all of my students.

Now it's your turn as parents to help make this a really special resource just for our class. I'm asking you to read the book and check out all the information and then give me your ideas on how we're going to use it in class. Having your ideas on how we can improve this guide will really make it our own class resource.

Here's one of the really exciting things about this program - students might have less homework, Is that shocking? Yes - I said less homework.

Kids and classes that have been using this same system have shown incredible progress in a very short time and with less effort than before because we'll be helping each other. We will take different areas and have pro and con discussions -things like Math, Science, Literature, Sports and Music; both subjects we don't like and subjects we love – and we can all help each other learn as we go.

We are going to keep to non-emotional subjects so we can expand our cognitive thinking – which means our ability to think on our feet!

Think of what our class will learn this way! Writing for speeches, creating content for making good well researched-arguments, and of course - listening. That's the most important way to learn - being respectful of opposing arguments while getting to know their classmates better by helping each other. Because in this program the better each student shares, the better each student does.

I may contacting you to ask if you're available to help a little with the foundation we're going to create here at Allensworth to help our students raise money to support our program and learn how to do it successfully!

Thanks for being a great parent!

Mrs. Holland

Proud 4th Grade Teacher

Allensworth Grade School

Washington D.C