

## FROM THE TEACHER

Dear student (name)

I have been looking for some new and different ways for us to have more fun and get us more engaged in learning those subjects we love and even those we 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 to us 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. You 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 you. Now it's your turn to help make this a really special resource just for our class. I want you each to read the book and check out all the information and lets all talk about how we're going to use it. 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 - we might have less homework, Shocked? 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 we 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 your classmates better by helping each other. Because in this program the better you share, the better you will do.

So read our new guide and we will discuss it. Warning - share your thoughts on this with your parents, because I am sending them this guide too, to see what they think and share with you. We may recruit some parents to help a little with the foundation we're going to create to help us raise money and learn while doing it, especially if they did debating themselves in school, and if so we'll ask them to share how or it helped them in school and in life – just like it is going to help each one of you.

Thanks for being my great student!

Mrs. Holland

Proud 4th grade Teacher

Allensworth Grade School

Washington D.C