

Southmoore High School Speech & Debate Club

It is the purpose of this club to advance the appreciation of the spoken arts to all students at Southmoore High School. All members of the student body of Southmoore High School are invited to participate in the organization.

Statement of proposed purpose, goals, and activities: The Southmoore Speech & Debate Team connects, supports, and inspires a diverse community committed to empowering students through competitive speech and debate. We envision a place in which every student has access to educational resources, competitive opportunities, and expertise necessary to foster their communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creative skills. (Adapted from the National Speech and Debate Association Mission and Vision to fit the Southmoore Speech and Debate Team Mission & Vision)

Curriculum Relatedness: Students will learn to organize speeches, practice competitive acting events, and prepare for debates, as well as learn how to bring these events to competition. This will provide students with further opportunities that will facilitate understanding of the concepts of these disciplines.

Rules: We agree to follow all Moore Public School District policies, procedures, laws, and rules. See below for specifics.

Election of Officers: Please see attached constitution.

Membership Criteria: Please see attached constitution.

Meeting Rules: Please see attached constitution.

Procedures for Amendments: Please see attached constitution.

Southmoore High School Speech & Debate Club Constitution

ARTICLE I: Speech & Debate Club Council Officers

Section 1: The Speech & Debate Leadership Team will consist of officers and students who play an active role in Speech and Debate preparation and competitions. These members will be chosen by an application and interview process conducted by the sponsor. The Speech & Debate Council will sit for a term of one year. In the event of a Council member's departure before the end of the year, a special selection process will be held.

Section 2: After each competition, the officers will assign Speech & Debate points to each participant of the preparation/competition. At the end of each school year, awards will be given to members based on the number of points that each student has accumulated.

Section 3: Attendance of at least 50% of the members of the Leadership Team is required to call a meeting of the Leadership Team to order.

Section 4: Leadership Team members who miss more than three official meetings will be removed from the Leadership Team unless the Sponsor determines that it is an excused absence due to such matters as illness, family emergency, other required school events, etc.

ARTICLE II: The Sponsor

Section 1: The Speech & Debate Leadership Team and Speech & Debate Club recognize the final authority of the after-school Speech & Debate Sponsor appointed by the administration of Moore Public Schools. The Sponsor referred to by this document is strictly the Speech & Debate Club sponsor.

Section 2: The Sponsor will direct/consult on all preparations and competitions.

Section 3: The Sponsor may choose to exclude any member from competition based on insufficient preparation or inappropriate behavior. What constitutes inappropriate preparation or inappropriate behavior will be at the discretion of the Sponsor.

ARTICLE III: Leadership Team Selection

Section 1: After the final competition of the year (excluding the NSDA National Competition in the Summer), the selection process will be held for the officers of Speech & Debate Leadership Team for the following year.

Section 2: Selection through application and interview to the Speech & Debate Leadership Team will be presided over by the Sponsor.

Section 3: Any rising Sophomore, Junior, or Senior member may apply for the Speech & Debate Leadership Team.

Section 4: Any student who wishes to run for office must complete an officer application form that includes 2 faculty and 1 parent/guardian signatures.

Section 5: The Sponsor will choose the leadership team.

ARTICLE IV: Competition Selection

Section 1: The Sponsor will determine which competitions will best fit the overall schedule for the Speech & Debate Team. Students may only attend these designated competition dates and locations.

ARTICLE V: Membership

Section 1: Students may join Speech & Debate Club without being in a Speech & Debate class. Students in Speech & Debate classes are not required to join Speech & Debate Club.

Section 2: All students in Southmoore High School Speech & Debate classes may participate in Speech & Debate competitions if the following criteria are met:

1. The student has attended scheduled weekly practices.
2. The student has presented each competition event piece or debate for critique by the sponsor the equivalent of once each week between the preceding competition and the current competition.
3. The Sponsor has determined that the student is prepared for competition at Sponsor's full discretion.

Section 3: Speech & Debate Club members who are not enrolled in Speech & Debate classes may participate in one designated Speech & Debate competition per semester if the following criteria are met:

1. The student has attended scheduled weekly practices between the preceding competition and the current competition (at a minimum of two practices).
2. The student has presented each competition event piece or debate for critique by the sponsor the equivalent of once each week between the preceding competition and the current competition.
3. The sponsor has determined that the student is prepared for competition at Sponsor's full discretion.

ARTICLE VI: Amendments

Section 1: Any voting member may bring to the attention of the Speech & Debate Leadership Team an amendment to this constitution. For an amendment to be adopted it must be approved by a majority of Council and by popular vote of the majority of the membership, and then final approval must be given by the Sponsor.