

HMDC Forensics Team: Spring 2024

March 16, 2024 to June 15, 2024 from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM (Pacific Time Zone)

Course Description:

This course is designed to teach skills that enhance critical thinking, creative problem-solving, confident public speaking, and respectful disagreement. Our pedagogy helps students build self-confidence and develop a powerful voice. The team meeting combines elements of competitive debate and Model United Nations, providing students with opportunities to research, discuss, and debate a variety of engaging topics. Students will learn to communicate clearly and effectively, developing essential life skills that are linked to improved academic performance.

Instructor Information:

Kelly Kehoe,

kellypkehoe@gmail.com

Bill Eddy (aka Coach Bill)

billeddy@gmail.com

Coach Kelly's Zoom Information (no password):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84957170222>

Coach Bill's Zoom Information (pw = db8-clu8):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85848782450?pwd=bDFRbUYwUEFvRUMzdFVNQUVLaXZIUT09>

Textbooks: None. [Handouts will be provided]

Handouts: An email will be sent to parents/students allowing them to download all relevant course materials (WeTransfer). These files and folders will also be available on the research website.

Materials: Students and parents will receive an email from me each week with relevant worksheets, assignments and other materials needed for the upcoming team meeting. Materials will be available in various file formats (Google Docs, Tencent Docs, PDFs).

Typical Activities During Forensics Team Meetings:

1. **Persuasive Speeches:** In each team meeting, students will prepare and orally deliver various types of speeches intended to persuade diverse audiences. Students can expect a blend of solo (individual) and group preparation opportunities for these speeches.
2. **Crossfire Activities:** Students will engage in back-and-forth questioning on timely topics related to either that week's MUN lessons or the latest public forum debate topic. The primary goal of these crossfire activities is to help students gain more confidence in their speaking abilities and develop stronger critical thinking skills in asking and answering meaningful questions amongst their peers.
3. **Argument and Evidence Analysis:** Students will practice analyzing arguments, identify flaws in logical reasoning, describe issues with evidence credibility, and learn new strategies for strengthening their own arguments. This is an extremely valuable skill for MUN, debate, essay writing, and more.
4. **Country & Issue Analysis:** Students will enhance their critical thinking and cultural competency skills by analyzing a variety of complex geopolitical issues and different countries' perspectives.