

## Speech and Debate: Logic, Philosophy, and Argumentation

### Part I: Introduction to Argumentation and Speech

In the first part of the course, we will discuss at length the basics of good argumentation with strong emphasis on facial, emotion, and voice. We will learn to control your breathing; separate vocal exercises for men and women to optimize their vocal control and learn what type of voice you have and what to do about it. We will also cover volume, pitch, tone, what to do with your hands, posture and other body parts while you speak. ***Participation in speech and debate tournaments through the National Forensic League and the San Diego-Imperial Valley Speech League is required.***

### Part II: Philosophy

Speech and debate requires logical thinking. In the second unit, we will cover the major debates in man's pursuit of truth. Topics and authors covered include

- Relativism and Tolerance: Should we have tolerated the Nazis? Should we tolerate female genital mutilation?
- Nozick's Subjectivism about Happiness: Would you want to plug into a happiness machine for the long haul?
- Bentham: Utilitarianism – How can we evaluate utility in terms of pleasure and pain?
- Mill: Utilitarianism
- Rawls: A Theory of Justice
- Kant and the Categorical Imperative
- Punishment and Theories of punishment

### Part III. Econometrics and Research Methods: An introduction to statistics, econometrics, and networks

We will examine the Language Of Research and study mathematical and scientific understandings of logic. Starting with the Philosophy of Research, we will cover the Structure of Research, Deduction & Induction, Positivism & Post-Positivism, and then move on to Validity, especially in the evaluation of a wide range of media ranging from scientific reports to the President's speech. Emphasis will be made on Econometrics and Research Methods, we will cover: Sampling, Construct Validity, Qualitative Measures, Establishing Cause & Effect, Regression, Introduction to Design, Experimental Design, Probabilistic Equivalence, experimental designs, and an introduction to econometrics.

### Part IV: Political and Economic Science

We will cover the major debates of American and international politics (conflict, cooperation, democracy, elites) through the major theories of economic theory (principal-agent theory, contract theory, game theory) and political science (realism, liberalism, rational design approach, institutionalism).