

The Constitution of the Braddock Speech and Debate Club

2009-2010

Article I "Our Foundation"

The name of the organization shall be the Braddock Speech and Debate Club.

Article II "The Purpose of the Braddock Speech and Debate Club"

The purpose of the Braddock Speech and Debate Club serves to:

- To develop knowledge of the debate world
- To develop better public speaking skills
- To bring experience in debate tournaments to club members

Article III "Qualifications"

- Section 1** Qualifications for membership:
- *Students must be able to attend meetings on Wednesday afternoons.*
 - *Students must pay a \$15.00 debate fee.*

- Section 2** Procedures for selecting members:
- *All students who attend the meetings and wish to join may do so.*
 - *All students must earn 75 NFL Points in first year.*

- Section 3** Dues are needed to participate in tournaments. Fees will vary.

Article IV "Club Officers"

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|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Section 1 | President - | Julie Ghazi |
| | Vice President - | Alicia Barosso |
| | Secretary - | Chris Lopez – Minutes / Meetings |
| | Treasurers - | Mynor Cuyun |
| | Historians - | Genesis Martinez |
| | Club Sponsor - | Mrs. Carol Cecil |

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Section 2 The majority of the Braddock Speech and Debate Team shall elect the above officer positions.

Section 3 There shall be no special committees.

Article V "The Structure of Meetings"

Section 1 Meetings shall be held monthly on Wednesday from 2:40 pm -3:10 pm.

Section 2 Special meetings shall be called before tournaments.

Section 3 Order of Business

- Call to order (*Vice-President*)
- Attendance Sheet (*Secretary*)
- *President's Minutes* – introduction for newcomers, news of tournaments.
- Reading of Correspondence
- *Treasurer's Report*
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Conclusion of Meeting
- Adjournment.

Section 4 Parliamentary procedure shall be followed.

Section 5 Attendance for a tournament meeting is not mandatory unless students have signed to participate in that specific tournament. Students are required to attend the monthly meetings.

Article VI "The Structure of Speech and Debate Events"

Section 1 The Braddock Speech and Debate Club members participate in events sponsored by the National Forensic League, The National Catholic Forensic League and the Florida Forensic League.

Section 2 Events offered by the above forensic leagues are:

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- **Policy Debate** is a form of speech competition in which teams of two debate whether or not a specific policy action should be enacted.
- **Lincoln-Douglas Debate** involves the philosophical analysis and debate of a resolution that has no definite answer. Two debaters face each other in a round, with one representing the affirmative and the other representing the negative side.
- Similar to Policy Debate, the debate in **Public Forum Debate** is conducted by teams of two people, alternating speeches for their side.
- **Original Oratory** involves competitors who deliver an original speech on a subject of their choosing, though the speech must be factual. Speeches must be written and memorized by the performer and should be no more than ten minutes in length.
- **Dramatic Interpretation** is a form of speech even in which performers will each perform an excerpt from a published play, novel, or short story. As the name suggests, the cuttings are invariably from dramatic works.
- **Humorous Interpretation** is a form of speech even in which performers will each perform an excerpt from a published play, novel, or short story. As the name suggests, the cuttings are invariably from humorous works.
- **Poetry Reading** (only in NFL) or **Oral Interpretation** (Only in FFL and NCFL) is a ten-minute reading event, alternating between prose and poetry each round
- **Duo Interpretation** is a form of speech even in which two performers will perform an excerpt from a published play, novel, or short story. The cuttings are invariably from dramatic works and humorous works, or sometimes both.
- **United States Extemporaneous Speaking** involves the selection, preparation, and presentation of a seven-minute speech on a topic relating to United States domestic and foreign policy, domestic commerce, politics, economy, and the like. The speech is to be delivered entirely from memory.
- **International Extemporaneous Speaking** involves the selection, preparation, and presentation of a seven-minute speech on a topic relating to foreign policy, foreign commerce, politics, economy, and the like. The speech is to be delivered entirely from memory.

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- **Student Congress**, students imitate the United States Congress by debating bills and resolutions.

Section 3 The Degrees of Membership

- **Merit**. Eligible persons who have 25 credit points, 10 of which were earned in competitive speaking, shall upon election, receive the Degree of Merit.
- **Honor**. Members who have the Degree of Merit and a total of 75 credit points shall receive the Degree of Honor.
- **Excellence**. Members who have a total of 150 credit points shall receive the Degree of Excellence.
- **Distinction**. Members who have a total of 250 credit points shall receive the Degree of Distinction.
- **Special Distinction**. Members who have a total of 500 credit points shall receive the Degree of Special Distinction.
- **Superior Distinction**. Members who have a total of 750 credit points shall receive the Degree of Superior Distinction.
- **Outstanding Distinction**. Members who have a total of 1000 credit points shall receive the Degree of Outstanding Distinction.
- **Premier Distinction**. Members who have a total of 1500 credit points shall receive the Degree of Premier Distinction.

Article VII

“The Annual Braddock Speech and Debate Club Awards”

Section 1 Annual awards shall be given to members of the Braddock Speech and Debate Club for their dedication to the team at the Debate Banquet at the end of the school year.

Section 2 The awards shall be the following:

- The John Vargas Award for most NFL points.
- The Jeff Augustin Award for commitment and dedication to the Braddock Speech and Debate Club.
- The Cesar Fernandez Award for Excellence in Congress
- The Stephanie Ramones Award for Excellence in Debate
- There shall be awards recognizing the following:
 - President
 - Vice-President

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- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Historian
- The Best Novice Award for the novice who has achieved the most NFL points its first year as a member of the Braddock Speech and Debate Club. There will be awards given in Individual Events, Congress, and Debate
- The Student Congress Plaques for those who have dedicated time and effort in the Student Congress event and earned at least 75 points in the event for said year
- The Student Congress Gavel is awarded to individuals who have earned 125 NFL points in the event for said year
- The National Forensic League Certificates to those who have achieved the degrees of Merit, Honor, Excellence, Distinction, Special Distinction, Superior Distinction, Outstanding Distinction, or Premier Distinction.

Article VIII "Amendments"

- Section 1* The sponsor or the president of the Braddock Speech and Debate Club can originate amendments.
- Section 2* In order to pass an amendment, a 2/3 majority is required.
- Section 3* The amendment must be presented in written form and presented to the Braddock Speech and Debate Club in the form of a speech arguing such amendment.

Article IX "Removal From Club"

- Section 1* There may come a time when the officers and or sponsor of the club may seek to punish or remove a member.
- Section 2* Infractions may be classified as major or minor infractions.
Minor Infractions may include but are not limited to the following
- Missing meetings
 - Failure to attend competitions for which the person signs-up for

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Major Infractions may include but are not limited to the following

- Violating School rules while on a trip – such as breaking curfew, drinking alcoholic beverages and or imbibing in illicit drugs
- Failure to remain in contact with sponsor or chaperone
- Being late to a scheduled “check-in”
- Poor Behavior While Traveling / Local Competitions

Section 3 For minor infractions the following actions will be taken

- 1st time a verbal warning and notation made in Speech & Debate’s Records – drop fees from competition will still apply
- 2nd time a written warning will be issued along with a letter home to parent’s of the student providing an explanation - drop fees from competition will still apply
- 3rd time student will be served with notice of dismissal from club/team. Student will be given an opportunity to plead their case at a special meeting comprised of the student, the officers, the sponsor, and if requested by the student their parents.

For major infractions the following actions will be taken (Please note that for major infractions – punishment or action will be based on the severity of the offense)

- The action is left at the sole discretion of the sponsor who will follow all school mandated rules when needed. When not specifically spelled out by school mandated rules everything else is left to the sponsor’s discretion.