



DEBATEFEST STUDENT WORKBOOK

We are providing a handbook to help your students prepare for success at DebateFest. Follow these steps and we will see you at one of our events.

6-Week Skill Builder Program (Grade 3-12)

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

- Complete each day's activities
 - Participate in discussions and debates
 - Reflect on your growth
 - Track your progress each week
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WEEK 1: RESPECTFUL DISCUSSION & BEHAVIOR

Day 1: Argument vs Discussion

Think: What is the difference between arguing and discussing?

 Write: Argument =

Discussion =

✓ Circle which is better for learning: Argument / Discussion

Day 2: Rules of Respect

List 3 rules for respectful discussion:

1.

2.

3.

Day 3: Sentence Stems Practice

Complete: I agree because

I disagree because

Day 4: Listening Skills

Write what your partner said:

What did you learn from them?

Day 5: Mini Discussion

Topic: Should students have homework?

My opinion:

One reason:

WEEK 2: BUILDING STRONG ARGUMENTS (CER)

Day 1: Claims

Turn this opinion into a claim: "School should start later."

My Claim:

Day 2: Evidence

Find 2 pieces of evidence:

1.

2.

Day 3: Reasoning

Explain WHY your evidence supports your claim:

Day 4: Build Your Argument

Claim:

Evidence:

Reasoning:

Day 5: CER Challenge Reflection

What made a strong argument?

WEEK 3: COUNTERARGUMENT & RESPONSES

Day 1: Opposite View

What is the opposite of your opinion?

Day 2: Rebuttal Practice

Response:

Day 3: Emotion vs Logic

Circle the better response: A) "That's dumb." B) "I disagree because..."

Why?

Day 4: Debate Practice Notes

My argument:

Their argument:

Day 5: Reflection

How did I handle disagreement?

 WEEK 4: ARGUMENTUM (DEBATE)

Day 1: My Role

My role: _____

My job is to:

Day 2: Organizing My Speech

Introduction:

Evidence:

Conclusion:

Day 3-5: Debate Notes

Topic:

My Points:

1.

2.

Opposition Points:

1.

2.

 **WEEK 5: SOLVE & DEFEND (MATH)**

Day 1: Solve the Problem

Show your work:

Day 2: Explain Your Thinking

How did you solve it?

Day 3: Defend Your Answer

Why is your answer correct?

Day 4: Challenge Questions

Question someone asked you:

Your response:

Day 5: Reflection

What helped you solve problems?

WEEK 6: COMPETITION PREP

Day 1: Practice Debate

What did I do well?

Day 2: Improve

What can I improve?

Day 3: Mock Competition Notes

Day 4: Final Prep

My goal:

Day 5: FINAL REFLECTION 🎉

What did I learn?

How have I improved?

What am I most proud of?

🌟 STUDENT PROGRESS TRACKER

Rate yourself (1–5):

Speaking: ★★★★★ Listening: ★★★★★ Confidence:
★★★★★ Teamwork: ★★★★★

💡 REMEMBER

“Debate is not about arguing—it’s about thinking, listening, and communicating with purpose.”

 **WEEK 4: ARGUMENTUM (DEBATE)**

Day 1: My Role

My role: _____

My job is to:

Day 2: Organizing My Speech

Introduction:

Evidence:

Conclusion:

Day 3-5: Debate Notes

Topic:

My Points:

1.

2.

Opposition Points:

1.

2.

DebateFest