

# Richmond Homeschool Forensics Foundations of Policy Debate 2009-2010

## **Why debate?**

Academic debate develops the ability to clearly and persuasively articulate ideas publicly, under pressure, with poise, courtesy and grace. It helps develop research skills, logical reasoning, and the ability to hear and understand positions expressed by others, and especially to refute ideas without attacking the individual. (Col. 4:6) Participation in this activity leads to an increase in knowledge of our country's history and current government, societal, and economic issues. Best of all, students learn all this, and more, through the fun of competition and interactive activities.

## **Who are we?**

Richmond Homeschool Forensics (RHF) was founded in 2000 with a vision to teach debate and speech skills to Christian home educated students, and to provide them with opportunities to participate in formal debate and speech competitions. Today, as part of the Christian Communicators of the Southeast, a multi-state speech and debate league, RHF regularly hosts tournaments in the Richmond area, and helps facilitate tournaments in other areas, providing students with the excitement of competition against worthy opponents. The CCoFSE website has more detailed information about our league and its values. <http://www.ccofse.com>

## **What is Foundations?**

*Foundations of Policy Debate* is RHF's beginning debate and speech course. This course is designed to train home-educated teens in the fundamentals of academic policy debate and effective speech in an interactive, upbeat setting using hands-on activities. In-class activities teach students to express arguments in an organized and persuasive manner from a biblical worldview. This year, the Foundations class will meet at the same time as our RADIX debate club. Class members will have an opportunity to interact with experienced RADIX members, and will be integrated into club activities as appropriate.

## **Guidelines and expectations:**

The research involved for success in debate class requires basic keyboarding and computer skills plus reliable and extended access to the Internet. Students should expect to do approximately 3-5 hours of homework between classes.

We expect participants to be punctual, eager to learn, courteous towards instructors and fellow students, and to comply cheerfully with the RHF dress code as follows:

For classes, dress is "corporate casual" (collared shirts and nice pants for guys; skirt or pants with modest tops or dresses for girls. NO JEANS, SHORTS or FLIPS). Tournaments require competitors to wear more formal business attire, *i.e.* suits, jackets, ties, and dress shoes as prescribed by CCoFSE (CCoFSE.com). The dress code will be strictly enforced at all classes and other RHF events.

## **Parents**

Parent participation has always been the backbone of our program. In fact, Richmond Homeschool Forensics exists to support parents in teaching and training their young people in communication skills. Therefore, attendance by at least one parent will be expected for no fewer than 8 of the 10 classes, as well as for the Educational Tournament and the CCoFSE Richmond Tournament. A parent sign-up sheet with specific dates and times is included with this registration packet.

## **Class times and dates**

RADIX and the Foundations class meet concurrently every other Friday from 12:30-5:00 PM. This year's class will begin with a 2-day Beginning Policy Debate Camp, August 27-28. This camp is required for class members. The cost is included in the class tuition fee, but you will still need to fill out a registration form.

2009-2010 class dates are as follows: Sep. 11 Kick-off Day (10:00-4:00), Sep. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Oct.30, Nov. 13, Dec. 4, Jan 8, Jan 22, Feb. 5. Spring schedule TBD

There are two additional required class dates.

- Saturday, November 21 – All-Day Workshop
  - Friday and Saturday, February 19 & 20, 2010 – CCofSE debate & speech tournament
- \* Please note: Full participation in both of these events is required for all Foundations Class students and at least one parent.**

## **Location**

Classes are held at Richmond Christian Fellowship, 4424 Huguenot Road, Richmond, VA 23235 (near the south end of the Huguenot Bridge). Tournament locations are TBD.

## **Class Tuition & payments**

Tuition for the class is \$250.00, Tuition payment is due in full with your registration form, unless you arrange with us to pay in monthly installments, in which case the first installment of \$50 is due with your registration form.

- **Please note: Should you choose the installment option, you are agreeing to complete payment of the entire class tuition.**

You should expect the following additional costs (approximate costs):

- \$20.00 – The GreenBook (our resolution sourcebook),
- \$15 to \$28.00 - required textbook (may be available used)
- \$20.00 (per family) - CCofSE League fee
- \$25.00 - tournament registration (per tournament attended)

## **Supplies**

Students will supply their own books and materials, and are expected to bring pens, paper, a three-ring binder, their textbooks, a count down timing device, and all their research and notes to every class. They will also need to purchase one of the following textbooks:

*The Great Debate* by Jonathan Wolfson. (\$25.00 from: <http://www.greatdebate.net/>)

**OR** *Introduction to Argumentation and Debate* by Christy Shipe (\$13 from HSLDA:

<http://www.hslda.org/bookstore/items/DEBATE.asp?PID=5208340006>) We will be placing a group order for the GreenBook and will let you know the exact cost later.

## **Communication**

Routine communication with parents and students is primarily by email. We maintain records of each student's completed homework and test scores. These are provided to the parents, who then assign a grade for their own student. We welcome questions and comments from parents at any time about their student's progress. We believe in open communication between leaders, parents, and students, and expect any concerns or issues that arise to be resolved according to the Biblical guidelines found in the Peacemaker's Pledge.

[http://www.peacemaker.net/site/c.aqKFLTOBlpH/b.958159/k.A440/Peacemakers\\_Pledge.htm](http://www.peacemaker.net/site/c.aqKFLTOBlpH/b.958159/k.A440/Peacemakers_Pledge.htm)

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