

COMM-2110: ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: COMM-2110 : Argumentation and Debate

Board of Trustees:

June 2022

Academic Term:

Fall 2022

Subject Code

COMM - Communication Studies

Course Number:

2110

Title:

Argumentation and Debate

Catalog Description:

Introduces students to the basic principles of argumentation and debate as a tool for inquiry and advocacy, while emphasizing the development of research, critical thinking, and written and oral presentation skills. Strategies for advocating and arguing contested positions will be sharpened as reasoning and evidence in speeches, conversations, essays, and group deliberations are practiced and examined.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

COMM-1010 Fundamentals of Speech Communication, or COMM-101H Honors Fundamentals of Speech Communication, or departmental approval: comparable knowledge or skills.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Prepare and orally deliver formal and informal persuasive speeches and debates that are rooted in propositions, reasoning, inferences, and research.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Oral Communication: Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal communication for an intended audience that is clear, organized, and delivered effectively following the standard conventions of that language.

Objective(s):

1. Practice extemporaneous speaking.
2. Participate in appropriate verbal and nonverbal aspects of delivery.
3. Debate controversial topics.
4. Develop arguments from: cause, sign, generalization, parallel case, analogy, authority, and dilemma.
5. Recognize and state propositions of fact, value, and policy.

Course Outcome(s):

Apply and utilize research appropriate for oral presentations/speeches, formal and informal debates, and written compositions, which are all rooted in persuasion and argumentation.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

Objective(s):

1. Incorporate selected information into a knowledge base.
 2. Determine the extent and nature of the information need.
 3. Evaluate the objectivity and reliability of information found in sources.
 4. Recognize the subjective nature and bias of information found in sources.
 5. Determine the audience for whom the resource was intended.
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Course Outcome(s):

Critically analyze the process and effects of speech communication transactions, including evaluating speaker effectiveness.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Critique verbal and non-verbal aspects of delivery.
 2. Determine the prima facie case.
 3. Analyze the effective and persuasive nature of arguments.
 4. Determine if the burden of proof has been met.
 5. Recognize logical fallacies.
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Course Outcome(s):

Analyze contested issues by interpreting and utilizing research such as: articles, reports, media content (documentaries, news, investigative reports), and advertising in order to form opinions and guide judgment.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Construct and support arguments from books, periodicals, newspapers, fact books, and media analysis.
 2. Differentiate the argumentative/persuasive strategies used in the source.
 3. Critique the argumentative and persuasive strategy of the source.
 4. Form opinions based upon information presented from the source.
 5. Interpret and translate concepts into new ways of thinking.
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Methods of Evaluation:

1. Quizzes
2. Examinations
3. Letters to the Editor
4. Written Essays/Compositions/Outlines
5. In-Class Practice Debates
6. Refutation Speech
7. Lincoln-Douglas Debate
8. Parliamentary Debate
9. Other debates/assignments determined by faculty member.

Course Content Outline:

1. What is Argumentation?
 - a. Nature of Argumentation
 - b. Nature of Audience
2. Ethical Standards
 - a. Basic Concepts & Conventions
 - b. Presumption
 - c. Burden of Proof
 - d. The Prima Facie Case
3. Nature of Propositions
 - a. Propositions-Fact
 - b. Propositions-Value

- c. Propositions-Policy
- d. Phrasing the Proposition
- e. Analysis for Propositions
- 4. Locating Immediate Cause
 - a. Investigating the History
 - b. Create Primary Inference
 - c. Determine the Stock Issues
 - d. Creating Units of Argument
- 5. Toulmin Model
 - a. Grounds
 - b. Warrant
 - c. Backing
 - d. Qualifier
 - e. Rebuttal
- 6. Creating Proof for Argument
 - a. Evidence
 - b. Fact
 - c. Opinion
- 7. Reasoning
- 8. Arguments from: cause, sign, generalization, parallel case, analogy, authority, and dilemma.
- 9. Logical Fallacies
- 10. Fallacies in Reasoning
- 11. Fallacies in Appeal
- 12. Fallacies of Language
- 13. Arguing Fact
 - a. Advocating
 - b. Analyze Proposition
 - c. Build Prima Facie Case
 - d. Preempt Opposing Argument
 - e. Develop Argumentative Brief
 - f. Opposing
 - g. Strategy
 - h. Refute by Denial and Extenuation
 - i. Respond to Preemptive Arguments
- 14. Arguing Value
 - a. Advocating
 - b. Define Value Object
 - c. Identify Hierarchy
 - d. Specify Criteria
 - e. Measure Value Object
 - f. Opposing
 - g. Strategy
 - h. Definitions and Hierarchy
 - i. Challenge Criteria
 - j. Refute Measurement
- 15. Arguing Policy
 - a. Advocating
 - b. Advocating the First Stock Issue
 - c. Advocating the Second Stock Issue
 - d. Advocating the Third Stock Issue
 - e. Opposing
 - f. Strategy
 - g. Definitions
 - h. Refute Reason for Change
 - i. Refute Consequences of Change
 - j. Offer a Counterproposal

Resources

Freeley, A.J., & Steinberg, D. L. (2014) *Argumentation and debate: Critical thinking for reasoned decision making.*, Boston, MA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

Rieke, R. D., Sillars, M. O., & Peterson, T. R. (2013) *Argumentation and critical decision making.*, Boston, MA: Pearson.

Rybacki, K. C., & Rybacki, D. J. (2012) *Advocacy and opposition: An introduction to argumentation.*, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Mehrtretter Drury, Jeffrey P. *Argumentation in Everyday Life.* Sage, 2020.

Rush, David. *Build Your Argument.* Sage, 2021.

Zarefsky, David . *The Practice of Argumentation: Effective Reasoning in Communication.* Cambridge University Press, 2019.

Resources Other

1. Textbook selection is at the discretion of the instructor.

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