**Debate Etiquette**

* Do not interrupt a speaker, unless you are the questioner during a rebuttal.
* Always stand when your team is presenting or questioning.
* Do not talk with your team members while the other team is presenting. Instead, take notes and discuss your notes later when the mediator gives you time to confer.
* Use polite language! Do not put down or belittle your opposition. You want to prove a point, either that the status quo is good enough or that it must be changed. You may be forced to support a view with which you do not agree. Do not take points made during a debate personally! Debates are not about personal viewpoints. So, what is the purpose of debating? The purpose is to make you more knowledgeable and bout the issue at hand. The more you know about those who oppose your personal opinion, the stronger you can make your personal rebuttal in situations outside of this classroom. Debating also makes you better researcher and composition writer because it forces you to look for reliable sources and to think critically.
* When presenting, make eye contact with your audience. They are the ones who will determine whether you are more or less convincing. When asking questions during the questioning period of the debate, make eye contact with your opposition because this is when you should be gathering more information from them in order to make a stronger attack when you present again later to the audience.
* Do not wear hats or jackets while presenting. Also, avoid chewing gum. You want your audience to take you seriously.
* When the mediator calls “TIME”, you must stop speaking and be seated.