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Speech & Debate

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Speech & Debate

Social Issue

• American teenagers lack character building blocks in their adolescence [Fine 4]

• High School Debate teams allow students to create an “adolescent toolkit” that incorporates behavioral and social skills that many adults don’t have [Fine 16]

• Speech and Debate also helps with academic progress and achievement:

  - Secondary Literacy is sustained by “engagement with complex texts”. Policy debate requires analysis of important details, evaluating and drawing conclusions, and gathering and researching evidence [Mezuk 291]
  - Debates are an affective learning strategy for critical thinking and analytical skills [Darby 9]
  - The Golden Desert Speech & Debate allows students across the district to engage in elevated and sophisticated research, argumentation, and life-long learning.

Semester Reflection

• As a volunteer, I judged both speech and debate rounds.
  - Policy Debate
  - Lincoln – Douglas Debate
  - Extemporaneous Speaking
  - Informative Speaking
  - Repeatedly volunteering in a program I was part of for four years helped me see the other side of the debate, like how research and arguments are translated in the real world.
  - I expected a lot when I first started to volunteer since I knew what I was supposed to look for and how things are done. But the intellect and capability of young students always amaze me.

Personal/Professional Learning

• Debate volunteer judges are vital to the existence of a Speech & Debate program. Without them, tournaments cannot be ran.
  - Professionally speaking, it was beneficial to see different types of argumentation according to different debates styles and how they can be used effectively to persuade. This can help me with future essays and professional endeavors.
  - Personally, it was great to give back to a program that has shaped me into the person I am today.

REFERENCES