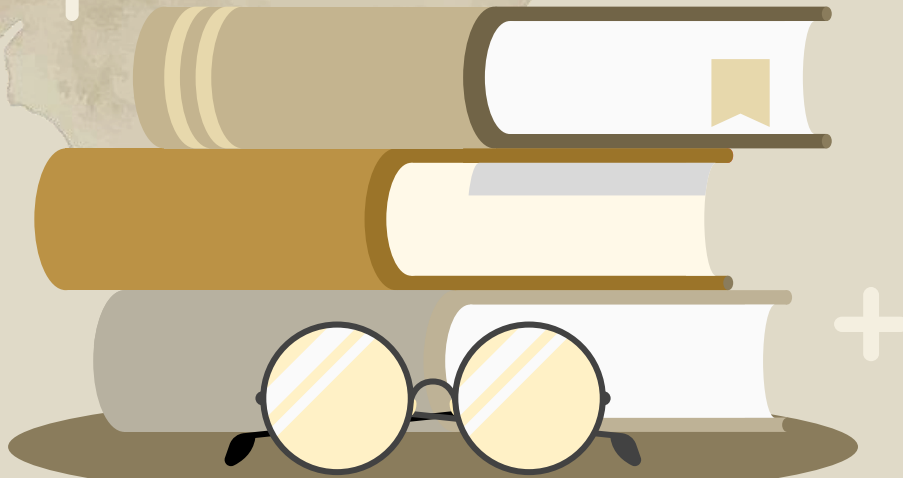


# Speech and Debate for Student Empowerment

Alexa Grechishkin (MVHS  
Debate Team Captain)



# About the Team

Competition is split into two categories (speech events and debate events)

Debate: Lincoln Douglas, Policy, Congressional, and Public Forum

Speech: Interp Events, Platform Events, Limited Prep Events

Most time is spent practicing, or competing on weekends



# Debate's Impact



01. Portable Skills
02. Academic Opportunity
03. Community
04. Leadership and Activism



# Portable Skills



Speech and debate teaches you to analyze arguments from diverse perspectives and gain an understanding of legislative processes

Research done for debate events prepares competitors for college level work

Public speaking, persuasion, and networking abilities apply directly to the real world



P  
**A Bill to Abolish ICE to Establish a Humane Immigration System**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The agency of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is hereby abolished and its

- duties shall be delegated to other agencies.

**SECTION 2.** Future immigration enforcement must abide by the following tenets to ensure equity and effectiveness.

**SECTION 3.** United States Customs and Border Protection shall be responsible for enforcement. An independent commission will be established to evaluate which functions of ICE are critical, and reapportion these duties to the appropriate agencies.

A. Resources and funding previously granted to private detention centers shall be diverted to providing legal counsel and due process resources to undocumented immigrants.

B. A system of scalable penalties including fines proportional to income and community services as alternatives to detention for deportation shall be instituted.

**SECTION 4.** ICE must be eliminated by January of 2022

**SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Mount Vernon High School.*

**The borderland forms a place where a confluence of identities are deemed "illegitimate" as existing power structures are strengthened. Anzaldúa, 87**

The U.S.-Mexican border es una herida abierta where the Third World grates against the first and bleeds. And before a scab forms it hemorrhages again, the lifeblood of two worlds merging to form a third country—a border culture. Borders are set up to define the places that are safe and unsafe, to distinguish us from them. A border is a dividing line, a narrow strip along a steep edge. A borderland is a vague and undetermined place created by the emotional residue of an unnatural boundary. It is in a constant state of transition. The prohibited and forbidden are its inhabitants. Los atravesados live here: the squint-eyed, the perverse, the queer, the troublesome, the mongrel, the mulato, the half-breed, the half dead; in short, those who, cross over, pass over, or go through the confines of the "normal." Gringos in the U.S. Southwest consider the inhabitants of the borderlands transgressors, aliens—whether they possess documents or not, whether they're Chicanos, Indians or Blacks. Do not enter, trespassers win be raped, maimed, strangled, gassed, shot. The only legitimate inhabitants are those in power, the whites and those who align themselves with whites. Tension grips the inhabitants of the borderlands like a virus. Ambivalence and unrest reside there and death is no stranger.

**The borderland does not exist physically, but instead begins mentally. Every time a physical border is validated, overarching structures of divisibility become stronger.**

**Anzaldúa, 87**

The dominant white culture is killing us slowly with its ignorance. By taking away our self-determination, it has made us weak and empty. As a people we have resisted and we have taken expedient positions, but we have never been allowed to develop unencumbered—we have never been allowed to be fully ourselves. The whites in power want us people of color to barricade ourselves behind our separate tribal walls so they can pick us off one at a time with their hidden weapons; so they can whitewash and distort history. Ignorance splits people, creates prejudices. A misinformed people is a subjugated people. Before the Chicano and the undocumented worker and the Mexican from the other side can come together, before the Chicano can have unity with Native Americans and other groups, we need to know the history of their struggle and they need to know ours. Our mothers, our sisters and brothers, the guys who hang out on street corners, the children in the playgrounds, each of us must know our Indian lineage, our afro-mesistaje, our history of resistance. To the immigrant mexicano and the recent arrivals we must teach our history. The 80 million mexicanos and the Latinos from Central and South America must know of our struggles. Each one of us must know basic facts about Nicaragua, Chile and the rest of Latin America. The Latinaist movement (Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Cubans and other Spanish-speaking people working together to combat racial discrimination in the market place) is good but it is not enough. Other than a common culture we will have nothing to hold us together. We need to meet on a broader communal ground. The struggle is inner: Chicano, indio, Americ an Indian, mojado, mexicano, immigrant Latino, Anglo in power, working class Anglo, Black, Asian—our psyches resemble the bordertowns and are populated by the same people. The struggle has always been inner, and is played out in the outer terrains. Awareness of our situation must come before inner changes, which in turn come before changes in society. Nothing happens in the "real" world unless it first happens in the images in our heads.



# Academic Growth

## Younger Grades

- Builds self confidence, helps communication of ideas, and creates the tools for academic success (Stanford National Forensic Institute)

## High School

- Correlated with higher grades and SAT Scores (New York Times)
- Provides scholarship opportunities



# Debate's Impact on the Class of 2021



**Ausha  
Curry**

American University Class  
of 2025



**Jaylin  
Talmadge**

Colby College Class of 2025



**Alexa  
Grechishkin**

Whitman Debate Presidential  
Scholarship Recipient

# Community through Debate

- Students connect with fellow Bulldogs as well as debaters from across Washington
- Travel creates opportunities to meet competitors from diverse backgrounds











# Activism



Students explore critical issues through their speeches

Involvement in other extracurriculars is encouraged

Debaters become motivated to create real world change



# Goals for the Future +

- Working to match the diversity of the team to the diversity of MVHS as a whole
- Growing and expanding our middle school debate program
- Continuing to uphold competitive success while growing leaders through the activity







**What's  
Next?**

# State Speech and Debate/Nationals!





*muhs debate*  
**speech night** *march 9*  
*6:30pm*