

# DEBATE TEAM AUDITION PACKET



Thank you for your interest in the East Ridge High School Debate Team. We are a competitive team that follows all policies of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL). As such, team members who meet certain criteria are eligible to receive a Varsity Letter in Debate.

## Debate Team Information

- Debate is a MN State High School League Varsity activity, so a **significant time commitment** exists. This time commitment is similar to what you might expect in any High School sport.

- There is a [**mandatory**] Summer Camp for team members:

### Public Forum & Congressional Debate Camp

July

- There are [**mandatory**] team practices every Saturday in August from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.
- During the school year, the **team practices two times per week**. The practice schedule will be released at auditions so students can check to see if it works with their schedule.
- The Debate tournament season runs from September until the first week in December. Debate Tournaments are **an all-day Saturday event**. We leave the school around 6:45 AM and return to the school around 5:30 PM.
- Consider reviewing the Debate Team Handbook, which can be found on the Debate Team website [[erhsdebate.com](http://erhsdebate.com)]. It contains **crucial policies on absences**, tournament attendance, fees, practices, student expectations, and conduct.
- **Fees for the 2024-25 Season**
  - \$140 Student Activity Fee (paid to ERHS)
  - \$50 Booster Club Fee
  - \$20 National Speech & Debate Association Membership Fee (one-time fee)
- Questions: [coach@erhsdebate.com](mailto:coach@erhsdebate.com)

## AUDITION PREPARATION

The 15-minute audition is a chance for you to get to know the coaches and the coaches to get to know you. It also allows you to showcase your research, writing, and speaking abilities.

*For the audition, we ask that you prepare 2 contentions on the following resolution:*

*The United Nations should abolish permanent membership on its Security Council.*

*One contention should be in favor of the resolution, and the other should be opposed to the resolution.*

**Here is an example:**

Resolution: The United States should raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour

Contention in favor of the resolution:

The United States should raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour to reduce income inequality by increasing the wages of low-wage workers. Dr. Benjamin Livwin, of Gettysburg College, found in the Spring of 2021 that above \$11.75 an hour, every \$1 increase in the hourly minimum wage decreases income inequality by 1.3%. Therefore, passing this bill means a parent is not trying to juggle multiple jobs to put food on the table and can actually spend time helping with their child's homework or tucking the child into bed.

Contention opposed to the resolution:

The United States should not raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour because it financially strains small businesses. Small businesses are essential to our economy. According to a May 2023 article published in the Harvard Business Review, small businesses comprise 44% of U.S. economic activity. When we demand small businesses to raise their employee wages to \$15 per hour, we risk small businesses cutting employee hours and benefits, or even closing. This is the opposite of the outcome we are looking for.