

The Debate Club Hosts Their First Debate (Part 2)

(Story words: understanding, judges)

Ms. Lopez shared some tips with the club. “Our time is limited. So you will want to make a good outline with the best facts at the top.”

“Then, when our opponents are making their case, you must listen and take notes. Even when you think you have grasped what our opponents have said, taking notes will help you focus. Writing things down will give you a more exact understanding of their side and will help you plan your best response to refute them.”

Ms. Lopez emphasized that the judges expect clubs to demonstrate politeness. “If someone on the other side messes up and makes a big mistake, you should be polite and kind when you respond. Mocking an opponent does not reflect well on anyone.”

There was lots of nodding. The kids knew that this was going to be a fun event.

Ms. Lopez concluded, “Because we are hosting the debate, I will get some drinks from the school, and the club can bring in some snacks to share.”

The kids were smiling and nodding again. But then Allison asked, “Can we bring in junk food? Even if the other school is on the ‘con’ side?”

Ms. Lopez said, “I like how you are thinking, Allison. But I do not think they will mind. And, besides, we will not be selling the snacks.”