

8th GRADE DEBATE  
PROCESS JOURNAL

Every 8th grader in debate must maintain a process journal. You need a composition notebook or online document to reflect on your preparation process and your competition results. The process journal will be checked periodically and will be graded every 6 weeks as a project grade. Below are some examples of types of entries:

*Tues. 9/15/21 - Today I worked on my Public Forum debate case on the Medicare For All topic. I have a point about it being too expensive but I'm worried that point might be weak because someone might point out that the cost of the program will be offset by the money saved via preventative care. I'll need to do more research to support this argument. I personally think that having everyone covered with healthcare is worth whatever the cost, but at the same time if the quality of care drops, then what good does that do? I'm feeling a little conflicted and it's hard for me to argue for ideas that I don't fully believe in.*

*Tues. 9/15/21 - Today I worked on my Poetry piece. I went through and underlined the words I want to emphasize and worked on performing it outloud. I'm happy with how much expression I'm using but I need to create an introduction. When I performed for my group in the back hallway, Ainsley said that I also needed to work on my facial expressions. It feels weird to make facial expressions and I think I look silly. Mr. Hill said that what looks and sounds awkward to us can sometimes be just what the performance needs because we need to be pushed out of our comfort zone. I also want to make sure I don't fall into 'interp voice.'*

*Mon. 10/5/21 - This past weekend I competed at Bellaire. I did LD and extemp. My prelim record in LD was 3-1 but I got eliminated in octas because I dropped my opponent's 2nd contention. The judge was so stupid, they weren't even listening to my 2AR! Ugh! But it's the best I've ever done in LD so I hope I can continue to build off this success. I was looking over my flows and I think I need a better way to flow. In extemp I got to finals and got 4th. My topic was about the election and I thought my speech was really bad because I didn't use a lot of evidence but I'm glad I got 4th. I'm going to work on using more evidence and reading more news.*

Try to have at least one to two entries a week. The process journal should document your actual process of how you prepare, perform and reflect. You're welcome to write about class projects, impromptu speeches, debate club and other things debate related. Keep in mind, this is NOT a diary where you just talk about what kind of day you had. And just to put my money where my mouth is, I will be keeping one, too!