

**TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**2369 Morris Avenue**  
**Union, New Jersey 07083**

**UNION TOWNSHIP ACADEMY FOR POLICY, PUBLISHING AND DEBATE**

**Burnet Middle School and Kawameech Middle School.**

*The Union Township Academy for Policy, Publishing and Debate will take place at Burnet Middle School and will be open to grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> at both Middle Schools. Union High School students in grades 9-12 will be afforded the opportunity to serve as peer mentors. The Mission of this program is to supplement scientific writing, language arts, and to improve conflict resolution skills utilizing public debate. The program will be aligned with the Next Generation of Science Standards and the rubric for PARRC in Language Arts. The goal of this program is to give students in the District of Union Township the competitive edge in reading, communicating and writing from evidence. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information from sources is the perfect synergy of NGSS and writing to the standard for Language Arts.*

*Academy students will meet two days a week. The Elite group will also include an additional morning meeting.*

*The Academy students will view the current events of the day (through discussion of newspaper articles and online media) and then learn to present their ideas through developing a group narrative following the aspects of debate. The blending of practice, content and crosscutting concepts in NGSS performance expectations will be reflected while instructing the students in the program. The students will be able to research additional sources while working with a team to find text based evidence. Members from Stockton university staff as well as staff members from community organizations and representatives from private industry will periodically visit the Academy to engage the students in thoughtful discussions from both positions of debate- affirmative and the negative.*

*Emphasis will be placed on training students to construct an argument based upon both traditional and electronic research fundamentals along with aspects of Publishing.*

*Several information sessions will take place during the month of November. These meetings will be designed to engage interest and release criteria for acceptance into the program. Interviews will be scheduled and variety of topics will be given for candidates to produce a one page narrative to be defended during scheduled interview. All narratives and rubrics will be tiered to be age appropriate from grades 6 through 8.*

*Academy Students will be asked to abide by a special dress code at every monthly Final Debate: No jeans or sneakers . . . shirt/blouse tucked in . . . and the young men will wear a necktie or Bow Tie.*

*Academy Students will be held to very high standards of behavior, punctuality, and academic effort. Students not maintaining these standards will be given a corrective action to maintain their position in the program.*

*Academy Students will enjoy privileges: Culminating trip at the end of each session. In addition, students will be allowed to have working lunches with students in their age group. Academy Students will be allowed to interface with representatives from government and universities (networking).*

### **INTEGRATE THE DISCIPLINES**

*In the professional world, our work must integrate disciplines – small business owners, nonprofit leaders, and scientists must combine skills in organization, finance, writing, and so much more. Schools should reflect the fact that skills are deployed in combination. Union Township is fully committed to developing competitive skills for our students to prepare them for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

*Parents/Guardians will be asked to pay for the culminating trip which will be determined before the start of the program.*

*In addition, Mr. Harrell will be readily available via telephone and email to answer any questions parents may have. Feel free to call him at 908-851-6497 or send an email to: [Tharrell@twpunionschools.org](mailto:Tharrell@twpunionschools.org)*

*Signature Parent:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Student Name(Print):* \_\_\_\_\_

Debate Criteria: Burnet Middle School

Director: Mr. Harrell

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: 1 page narrative typed, double spaced, 12 font and three references

- An interview time will be scheduled where you will argue your position
- Must attend one academy pre-session scheduled to assure a successful interview
- Dress code must be followed during scheduled interview

**Positions: Constructive Negative (You disagree)/Affirmative Constructive (You agree)**

**You must choose one**

**Debate Tips:**

- Analyze the type of proposition you are debating • Claims are the starting point of argument. • Different Types of Claims entail different obligations and require different types of support. • Compare "You should believe X" to "Everyone believes X."
- Deconstructing Argument: Types of Claims • Fact: X is Y, X was Y, X will be Y. Deconstructing Argument: Types of Claims • Fact: X is Y, X was Y, X will be Y. • Value: X is Good, X is more valuable than Y. Normally includes an ethical dimension.
- Deconstructing Argument: Types of Claims • Fact: X is Y, X was Y, X will be Y. • Value: X is Good, X is more valuable than Y. Normally includes an ethical dimension. • Policy: We should or should not do X
- Individual Summation of your argument and why your position is the best based on documented evidence from your sources.

*Academy for  
Policy,  
Publishing, and  
Debate*

	<b>Superb - 4</b>	<b>Superior- 3</b>	<b>Improving- 2</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory - 1</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Factual Information</b>	Presented a vast array of evidence effectively to support all arguments.	Presented some evidence to support all arguments.	Presented minimal evidence to support arguments.	Did not present evidence to support arguments.	
<b>Comprehension</b>	Demonstrated thorough understanding of evidence	Demonstrated accurate understanding of important evidence	Demonstrated minimal understanding of evidence	Demonstrated misunderstanding of the evidence	
<b>Persuasiveness</b>	Evidence of argument was analytical and convincing	Evidence of argument mostly analytical and convincing	Some evidence of argument analytical and convincing	Very little evidence of argument analytical or convincing	
<b>Delivery</b>	Communicated clearly and confidently; maintained eye contact; effective voice inflection upon delivery of evidence	Communicated clearly; frequent eye contact; effective voice inflection upon delivery of evidence	Seldom communicated clearly; minimal eye contact; minimal voice inflection upon delivery of evidence	Failed to communicate clearly; no eye contact; monotone delivery of evidence	
<b>Rebuttal</b>	Effectively addressed all opponent arguments with counter-evidence.	Addressed many facets of the opponent's arguments with counter-evidence.	Addressed a minimal amount of the opponent's arguments with counter-evidence.	Did not address opponent's arguments with evidence	