Speech and Debate
The Academic & Social Benefits for English Learners and Migrant Students

Presented by
John Oses, California Department of Education
Anabel González, Migrant Education - Region VIII

Migrant Speech and Debate: Local News Television Clip

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNw8oqirrFM
Presentation Outline

• Background on the California Migrant Education Program (MEP)
• Statewide Migrant Speech and Debate Program (Speech and Debate)-information and background
• The impact of the Speech and Debate program on migrant students
• Videos and pictures of migrant students’ growth in Speech and Debate

Background: What is the Migrant Education Program?

• The MEP is a federal funded program authorized under Title I, Part C.
• The MEP is designed to support high-quality supplemental and comprehensive educational programs for migrant children.
• In 2017–18, the California MEP identified 85,198 migrant students, including Pre-K and Out of School Youth (OSY) statewide.
Structure of the Migrant Education Program

Basic Service Overview

- **English language arts**
  - Targeted intervention in reading and writing
  - Speech and Debate
  - Saturday School
  - Literacy for OSY

- **Math**
  - Targeted intervention
  - University-based programs
  - STEM and STEAM
  - Migrant Student Leadership Institute

**Other Services**
Family Biliteracy, health services, credit recovery, HEP/GED summer institutes, Mini-Corps Outdoor Education
Pair Share

What experience do you have with Speech and Debate?

Was this through the National Forensics League or the Migrant Education Program?

California Migrant Speech and Debate

- Nine years of State Tournament
- Four hundred +/- student participants/year
- Maximum of 34 students per subgrantee in state tournament
- Spanish/English
- Sixth through twelve grade
- Six to eight weeks training for Regional Tournament (February to March)
- Additional 4–8 weeks of preparation for State Tournament in May
California Migrant Speech and Debate: How it Works

- Each MEP Subgrantee participates in a regional tournament
- Winning Speech and Debate teams compete in State Tournament
- One Speech student per grade level and language (English/Spanish)
- One Debate team for High School and Middle School and language (English/Spanish)
- Speech competitors must participate in prepared and extemporaneous speeches
- MEP subgrantees not required to participate in all categories

What is the Impact of the California Migrant Speech and Debate?
Critical Thinking Skills

Process of actively applying, analyzing, and/or evaluating information

Speech and Debate supports critical thinking skills by helping students:
• Understand the links between ideas
• Determine the relevance of arguments and ideas
• Recognize, build, and present arguments
• Identify inconsistencies and errors in reasoning and common logical fallacies
• Approach problems in a consistent and systematic way
• Distinguish between emotional appeals and evidence

Why is critical thinking important for Els and migrant students?

• Navigates students from remediation to higher order thinking.
• Provides a genuine context to demonstrate higher academic expectations for Els.
• Introduce students to linguistic scaffolds that support and stimulate critical thinking.
• Challenges the expectations and assumptions about Els and migrant students.
• Improves performance on standardized assessments.
Access to Core Academic Content

What are the core academics?

• Common Core State Standards
• English Language Development Standards
• High School graduation requirements/A-G requirements
• California State Seal of Biliteracy

Access to Core Academic Content

English Language Arts Anchor Standards (Grade 6-12)

ADDENDUM A

COMMON CORE STANDARDS INITIATIVE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ANCHOR STANDARDS
GRades 6-12

Reading:
• Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from text.
• Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and details.

Writing:
• Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient.
• Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the selection, organization and analysis of content.
• Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Speaking and Listening:
• Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on other’s ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
• Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning and use of evidence and rhetoric.
• Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.

Language
• Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
• Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
Access to Core Academic Content

Speech and Debate increases access to core academic content by

• Deepening and broadening knowledge about the world, perspectives and conventions of academic discourse
• Developing new thinking habits
• Providing linguistic scaffolds that can be applied to comprehension and expression
• Building personal connections
• Remediating and accelerating learning

Access to Core Academic Content

Why is access to core academic content important for ELs and migrant students?

• Due to migrant student mobility, supplemental services, such as Speech and Debate, assist students in engaging in general academic programs
• Creates an environment that facilitates involvement in school and social activities
• Moves at students’ pace to encourage intellectual stimulation
• Makes content knowledge relevant
High School Graduation Rates

Why is high school graduation important?

- Graduation success validates school programs and practices.
- Sixty percent of job opportunities in the skilled labor force require a high school diploma.
- Students who graduate with a high school diploma have higher self-esteem.

High School Graduation Rates

Speech and Debate increases high school graduation rates by:

- Building academic capacity
- Fostering self-advocacy
- Creating a peer community that values lasting academic success
Why is high school graduation important for EIs and migrant students?

• Enables students to take a number of vocational and elective courses.
• Success leads to more success.
• Breaks the cycle of
  – Poverty
  – Educational inequity
  – Socio-economic inequity

High School Graduation Rates

2017–18 High School Graduation Rates for Migrant and All students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide Total</th>
<th>Migrant Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83.0%</td>
<td>81.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on 2017–18 Dataquest information: Statewide information based on 504,073 students and Migrant student information based on 5,891 students

https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqncensus/CohRate.aspx?cds=00&agglevel=state&year=2017-18
Civic Engagement

Example of Students Participating in Civic Engagement

Pair Share

What did you observe?
Civic Engagement

Becoming involved in the political process and the issues that affect the community

• Speech and Debate:
  - Exposes students to current world issues
  - Instructs students to identify underlying issues that fuel controversies.
  - Provides tools for students to actively engage in their communities
  - Teaches reasoning and logic using role play and simulation

Civic Engagement

Why is civic engagement important for Els and migrant students?

• Better able to interpret political information and realities
• Supports discussions about political issues with peers and adults
• Strengthens students’ ability to clearly express their opinions
• Makes collaboration a tool and a vehicle to meet self-identified goals
• Able to work in diverse teams
• Provides the confidence and the tools to become civic actors
Research Methodology

Speech and Debate develops research methodology by:

- Making research relevant and indispensable
- Providing opportunity for students to explore the philosophical realm of a topic
- Breaking issues down to the critical core
- Exposing students to research tools

Why are research methodologies important for EIs and migrant students?

- Fosters academic/intellectual independence
- Enhances the ability to make personal connections to current issues
- Develops an understanding of bias (their own and others’)
- Promotes understanding of current world issues
- Provokes questions to energize thinking

Public Speaking

What is public speaking?

- The act of communicating, to inform or persuade an audience, large or small, where performance is seen as part of the message

- Remarks may be prepared or extemporaneous
Public Speaking

Speech and Debate supports public speaking skills by:

• Providing a safe space to practice oratory skills and performance techniques
• Developing written, oral, and performance skills
• Using competition to engage students and make performance skills not only relevant, but essential to success
• Supplying additional contexts for students to perform

Public Speaking

Why is public speaking important for EIs and migrant students?

• Brings students out of the shadows
• Encourages students to voice their ideas and exert influence within their community
• Yields positive academic and professional impacts throughout their lives
• Opportunities to serve as role models for other EI and migrant students
• Being a good public speaker is part of being a good leader
Self-Confidence

What is self-confidence?

- A feeling of trust in one's abilities, qualities, and judgment
- Expectations of performance, self-evaluations of abilities and prior performance

Self-Confidence

Speech and Debate supports self-confidence by:

- Providing positive feedback, praise and recognition of accomplishments
- Setting realistic academic and social goals for each student
- Using teaching strategies that provide an opportunity for equal participation
- Providing an opportunity for students to succeed by building on their individual and group strengths
- Offering small group instruction
Self-Confidence

Why is self-confidence important for ELs and migrant students?

• Creates a positive feedback loop of success
• Energizes and motivates students to take action and achieve goals
• Develops students’ willingness to take academic and social risks

Beaming with Confidence

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByHdAh3uRvgPamV1W G1oNDl0X2c/view
Self-Advocacy

What is self-advocacy?

• The ability to articulate one’s needs and make informed decisions
• Speak or act on one's own behalf

Speech and Debate supports self-advocacy through:

• Direct instruction on how to advocate for one’s self
• Role play activities
• Modeling and elevating the importance of discourse
• Illustrating academic discourse
• Positively reinforcing effort and self-improvement
Self-Advocacy

Why is self-advocacy important for EIs and migrant students?

• Students are able to appropriately describe their abilities and needs.
• Students are actively involved in setting realistic goals for their learning.
• Students are more interested in post-secondary educational opportunities.
• Students will have more future workplace success.

Students Displaying Teamwork

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6OY6TMxeIlb4UzFXRUpsZExYdUE/view
Teamwork

Speech and Debate supports teamwork:

• Because teamwork is built into the debate structure and is essential for success (i.e. accountability, cooperation, active listening)
• Through the use of team building activities and icebreakers
• By identifying the best role for each team member, assuring everyone has an essential part (Opener, Cross Examiner, Responder, Rebutter, and Closer)

Teamwork

Why is teamwork important for EIs and migrant students?

• Tackle more complex problems
• Pool knowledge and skills
• Receive social support and encouragement to take risks
• Develop new approaches to problem solving
• Develop their own voice and perspectives in relation to peers
• Experience a sense of accountability from seeing the indispensability of their contribution success of the team
Leadership

Capacity to lead →

During a Student Leadership Awards Ceremony, Migrant students MC (top) the event and provide the keynote address (bottom).

Leadership

Speech and Debate supports leadership by:

• Developing a strong commitment and fosters enthusiasm
• Teaching flexibility and adaptability to adjust to different settings and situations
• Teaching students to take responsibility for actions
• Catalyzing a willingness to take risks and present new ideas
Leadership

Why is leadership important for Els and migrant students?

- Provides new experiences that reinforce empowerment, growth and their sense of potential
- Better equipped to make their own opportunities throughout life
- Fosters self-reliance and an appreciation for lifelong learning
- Builds the students’ own voice and perspectives in relation to peers

Student Sample: High School Student Speech

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzzttuSrfoW66bHhUYWtNbXIXMDQ/view
DEBATE COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

Resources for Starting a Speech and Debate Program

- State Migrant Speech and Debate Preparation Manual

- Monterey County Office of Education, Migrant Education Program Speech and Debate Webpage
  https://sites.google.com/site/migrantspeechdebate/
QUESTIONS