



21ST CENTURY DEBATE

A DEEPER LEARNING APPROACH TO DEBATE EDUCATION

21st Century Debate Institute: The Great Pumpkin Debates Halloween Costume Contest

Categories: Grades 4-6, and Grades 6-8.

Prizes: Prizes will be awarded to each grade bracket for costumes displaying excellence in...
Quality, Accuracy, Effort, and Presentation.

Description: Costumes of all age-appropriate types (homemade or store-bought) are allowed. For example, *Superheroes, villains, puppies, pirates, wizards, and robots are all welcome! Judges are looking for colorful, exciting, well-crafted, and creative costumes in this Halloween-themed event.

*This is not a limit on your choices – please make a fun choice that makes you feel happy, okay? 😊

Link: <https://21stcenturydebate.org/event/great-pumpkin-debates-fall-2022/>

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Halloween costume contest! Debaters, judges, and observers are all welcome to wear costumes and win prizes. It's all about having as much fun as zoom events allow.

Steps Involved in the Costume Event

1. **The Initial Interview:** Judges will ask you to describe/explain your costume.
2. **Speaking in Character:** Judges will ask you to speak a "catchphrase," based on your character.
3. **Act/Pose in Character:** Judges will ask you to "strike a pose," to leave a lasting impression.

Costume Contest Judging Criteria

Quality: Whether a costume is handmade or store-bought, we may look at the stitching, material, and fit. Handmade costumes deserve a bonus. If you have compiled your costume from things found around the house, we look at how you have modified them, how you paired them and how creative you were. We also consider wig styling and make-up.

Tips... If your costume is handmade, make sure to let the judges know how you made it, and if not, then try to put more emphasis on something you styled, like your wig, make-up, or props.

Accuracy: How faithful are your costume, hair, make-up, and props to the character you are portraying?

Tips... Print (or share screen with) a picture of your character. If you're not dressing as a specific character, try mentioning what your inspiration was for your costume choices. :)

Presentation: One of the goals of wearing a costume is to look as much like your character as possible, which includes body motions and any phrases that you say. Acting in character should earn bonus points.

Tips... Try speaking in the voice and/or tone of your character; saying things how the character would say them – try standing, posing, and moving just as you imagine the character would.

Effort: Judges should try to determine how much effort each contestant put into completing the costume. An example would be finding or creating a rare prop, styling the appropriate wig, or doing the make-up.

Tips... Make sure to tell the judges how much time you spent working on your costume and please point out any details that required any 'extra' effort to complete.

Costume/Outfit Guidelines

- Costumes from all genres of fandom and non-cosplay Halloween costumes are acceptable. Handmade and self-constructed costumes are highly encouraged but not necessary.
- Please have any makeup or costuming done before the event.
- **All costumes must be family-friendly and appropriate for all ages.**
- For safety reasons, the following props are not allowed:
Projectiles of any kind. Don't throw anything. Flames, pyrotechnics, or explosives of any kind.



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Contestant Guidelines

- Each contestant will have up to 30-45 seconds to answer judges' questions, and to strike a pose!
- For safety reasons:
 - No running, jumping, or acrobatics.
 - No throwing/shooting of props is allowed.
- **CONTESTANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND ALL DAMAGES AND/OR MEDICAL BILLS, WHICH MAY RESULT FROM NOT FOLLOWING THE RULES.**

IMPORTANT: *21st Century Debate Institute* staff/volunteers have the right to modify these rules on the spot to protect the *safety, educational value, and integrity* of the event.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

21st Century Debate Institution does not discriminate in its employment practices, educational programs, or its activities on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, gender, orientation, or status as a veteran.

Important: I copied nearly all of the information here from the Wichita State University Library [website](#).