Dear (Student Name):

Congratulations on receiving this letter! You have been nominated by one or more of your teachers for the 20XX-20XX Anytown High School Speech and Debate Team. I hope that you consider this outstanding academic opportunity.

On the AHS Speech and Debate Team, our success is a direct result of our character, integrity, and hard work. Our students have achieved rare honors and top accolades for their achievement. You too can be one of our next success stories. Consider students like Devin Smith—a 9th grader at AHS who won the Washburn Rural High School Novice Tournament. Or, think about LaTosha Seals, who went undefeated in three tournaments this year. You might know Matt Lang or Anish Patel—they earned top honors at our National Speech & Debate Association District Debate Tournament. These and so many other 9th and 10th grade students began their debate career last year and soon became some of the best competitors in the state. You can, too!

The medals, the trophies, the overnight hotel trips, the team socials—they are just part of the reason our students work hard and have fun. Our program is centered on producing the best and brightest students in the state. Imagine your potential as a graduate of Anytown High School with a background in speech and debate. You think faster, you argue better, and you speak more clearly and with a sense of purpose and style. This is what your teachers see in you, and it’s what I want to see from you, too. Speech and debate is even more fun and enjoyable when we put in the necessary work to continually improve—both individually and as a team. Much like a competitive sport, the AHS Speech and Debate Team has a number of contests that you will be eligible to attend. The sooner you start, the better! Together we can help you build lifelong skills that will propel you to greater success in high school and beyond.

If you are interested—and I hope you are—I want you to talk with your parents. When your family has decided to become a part of our family, please visit with your AHS counselor and asked to be enrolled it the speech or debate classes. I hope to see you in class this August!

During the first week of August, we will be hosting a pre-season workshop at school. This is a great opportunity for you to enhance your speech and debate skills, or get introduced to speech and debate for the first time, without the stresses of schoolwork. It’s optional, but will be critical for those speech and debate students who want to be among the very best in the state!

Best Wishes,

(I. M. Coach) or (I. M. Captain and A. Co-Captain)