

“The debates taught me how to become a better public speaker.”
 > **Claire Thompson, 10**

To Be or Not To Be?

By: Hope Wolfe and Ashley Kindberg

THE SOPHOMORES WERE PARTICIPANTS IN THE TIME CONSUMING DEBATES that every sophomore has to experience in their English class.

The English teachers decided on the topic; block scheduling. The teams prepared weeks before spring break, so all students were able to understand everything they needed to know about block scheduling and how to debate properly. The team that won from their English class moved on to debate the winners from other English classes.

The final debate took place April 8, in the little theater. The final two

debate teams were from Mrs. Melissa Wolfe-Izworski's Honors English class against Mrs. Melissa Sullivan's Accelerated class during sixth bell.

The winners hailed from Wolfe's third bell. The team members were Brian Weber, Jordan Cohen, Warwick Johnston, Lisa Ramstetter, and Danny Haaser and argued the negative side. The five members were rewarded with a \$15 gift certificate to Montgomery Book Club and the semifinalist received a similar prize of \$10.

The Main Arguments Block Scheduling

Affirmative	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > More one on one time with teachers and students. > Students are able to go more in-depth with learning materials. > More relaxed and less stressful environment where students would be able to work on homework in class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Students may loose concentration in class. > Sycamore is already one of the top high schools in Ohio featuring excellence in education. > With the budget cuts, where would the school find the money to train the teachers?



THE WINNING TEAM FROM MRS. MELISSA WOLFE'S CLASS HAD many outstanding arguments on block scheduling that lead them to victory! They all prepared and worked well together as a team that made them the best sophomore team in their grade. The team members were Brian Weber, Jordan Cohen, Warwick Johnston, Lisa Ramstetter, and Danny Haaser.

Q&A

q: How did you prepare your students for the sophomore debate?

a: We practiced speaking and researched material on the topic (etc.). The process took about a month and it was a wonderful experience.
 > Mr. Jim Tinsley

q: What was the key to your students winning the debate and how were they different from other teams?

a: I saw evidence of many teams truly collaborating, our entire class worked together. Each individual had unique strengths and styles which complemented one another.
 > Mrs. Melissa Wolfe



< Mrs. Melissa Wolfe-Izworski
 Mrs. Lisa Dunster >



q: What qualities did you look for when deciding who the final winning team would be?

a: Well constructed and supported arguments, strong questions during cross examination and good sportsmanship.
 > Mrs. Lisa Dunster

