The Debate Uniform

Clothes Make the Man/Woman!
Definition

- **Uniform**: standard clothing worn by members of a group, organization, team, etc.
- **Debate Uniform**: professional attire to reflect the professionalism of the activity
Uniform for Guys

- **Suit**
  - Jacket and pants (that match)
  - Black or blue is preferable!!!
- **Shirt**
  - Dress shirt - white
  - Collar, button up, long sleeve
- **Tie**
  - Properly tied
  - Matches the shirt
  - NO NOVELTY TIES!
- **Shoes**
  - Dress shoes
  - Black
- **Socks**
  - Black
  - Mid calf
Uniforms for Girls

- **Suits**
  - Jacket and pants or skirt
  - Skirt must be no more than 3 inches above the knee
  - NO TIGHT SKIRTS!!!
  - Blue, black, or gray preferable
  - Avoid bright colors or “flashy” styles

- **Blouses**
  - No low cut blouses!!!
  - No spaghetti strap or strapless
  - No belly exposure

- **Shoes**
  - Closed-toed only!
  - NO spiked heels!
  - No more than 2 inches

- **Hose**
  - Preferred but not mandatory
Justification

- **Nonverbal Communication is Powerful!**
- **Looking professional gives the appearance of confidence and competence.**
- **Some judges consider clothing when voting**
  - Some are offended by inappropriate clothing
  - None are offended by “the uniform”
  - So………why take the chance?
- **Every activity has some form of uniform**
  - Ex: football players cannot play in t-shirts and bare feet
- **Mrs. Smallwood’s class is a tyranny – she IS the tyrant!**
Final Word(s)

- Debate is a professional competition, and looking the part is half the battle.
- If you want to be taken seriously..... DRESS SERIOUSLY!

The End!!!