

Literacies Debate Instruction Sheet

Step 1. Read this sheet before you begin.

Step 2. Students pick topic and then are assigned to teams. They do not know whether they will be pro or con until the day of the debate.

Step 3. Share your research and begin to identify arguments for your issue.

Step 4. Create a statement *for* and another statement *against* this issue.

Step 5. Make a list of arguments on separate cards both for and against sides. For each argument make cards for supporting evidence.

Step 6. Order the arguments with the strongest at the beginning. You now should have packets with a:

1. Claim card (This is true...)
2. Reason card (because...)
3. Evidence card (...and here's a supporting quote from an expert, some data, or facts).

Here is an example:

1. Citizens oppose war between the PLO and Israel. [C]
2. Surveys show they are afraid it will escalate to the Middle East. [R]
3. New York Times, 1/1/2002: "A Gallup poll released today shows that 59% of Americans favor sending Secretary of State Colin Powell to meet with both Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Yasir Arafat." [E]

Step 6. If you need further research for your arguments, do it now.

Step 7. Review the Rules for Formal Debate. Begin work together on the 3-minute Opening Statement. This must be a formal written speech.

Rules for Formal Debate

Opening is limited to one speaker each from Team A and Team B.

- Time: 3 minutes for each speaker

Rebuttal is limited to one speaker each from Team A and Team B.

- Time 2 minutes for each rebuttal speaker

Team has 8 minutes to write closing statement.

Closing statement is limited to one speaker each from Team A and B.

- Time: 1 minute for each closing speaker.

- Step 8. Decide on the speakers:
- Who will deliver the Opening Statement?
 - Who will be the Rebuttal Speaker?
 - Who will be the Closing Speaker?
- Step 9. You are a team. During the debate everyone on the team will listen to their opponent's Open Statement and make notes for the Rebuttal. Your Rebuttal Speaker will use all the note cards you make.
- Step 10. After the Rebuttal speeches each team will be given 8 minutes to write their Closing Statement. The team will work on this together.
- Step. 11. In closing, make one powerful argument and argue against your opponent's main point.

Congratulations!