

# "Four Corners" Informal Debate Instructions (60 minutes)<sup>1</sup>

**Debate question:** "How might we fix the Supreme Court?"

**Pick a solution** from your notecards that you rated as strong. **Go to the corner of our classroom** that your solution addresses best. (Your solution may fit with more than one, so make a decision on the best fit.) You will meet with other students who have investigated different solutions that fit the same process or structure.

1. The nomination process
2. The selection process
3. The length of appointments
4. The number of justices

**Rules for the Rounds:** Speakers within each round must change. Your instructor will time the rounds.

Round 1 **Platform** (9 minutes)

1. Meet: Teams create a statement of their platform for an opening argument (5 minutes)
2. Speak: Each team presents a statement of their position (1 minute each = 4 minutes)

Round 2 **Support** (13 minutes)

1. Meet: Teams choose evidence in support of their position (5 minutes)
2. Speak: Each team presents supporting evidence (2 minute each = 8 minutes)

Round 3 **Rebuttal** (13 minutes)

1. Meet: Teams organize their rebuttals of other arguments (5 minutes)
2. Speak Each team presents rebuttals of other positions (2 minute each = 8 minutes)

Round 4 **Closing Argument** (18 minutes)

1. Meet: Each team writes a closing argument showcasing the strongest evidence and rebuttals for their position (10 minutes)
2. Speak: Each team presents their closing argument (2 minutes each = 8 minutes)

**Oral Debrief** (2 minutes)

1. What worked?
2. What would you change?

**A written reflection may be assigned by your instructor.**

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<sup>1</sup> © NoodleTools, Inc. 1 December 2018. This format was inspired by an exercise described in Katherine Schulten's "Skills and Strategies: The Four-Corners Exercise to Inspire Writing and Discussion." *Learning Network*, New York Times, 10 Dec. 2015, [learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/12/10/skills-and-strategies-the-four-corners-exercise-to-inspire-writing-and-discussion/](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/12/10/skills-and-strategies-the-four-corners-exercise-to-inspire-writing-and-discussion/).