

# DEBATE ORGANIZER

Organize your thoughts about a debate topic.

**Supporters Believe**

**Opponents Believe**

**The Issue Is ...**

**Most People Think**

**I Think**

## How to Hold a Class Debate

Debate any topic in your classroom using this class debate framework.

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### **Here's How:**

1. Introduce debates by producing the rubric that you will be using to grade them.  
For a sample rubric, please see related sites at the bottom of this page.
2. A few weeks before the debate(s), give students the topic(s) to be covered.
3. Have students give you an ordered list showing in which debates they prefer to participate in order of preference.
4. From these lists make a debate group consisting of two students for each side of your debate: pro and con.
5. Before you hand the debate assignments out, explain that some students might be debating positions opposite to their beliefs. This is an important skill for them to learn.
6. On the day of the debate, give students in the 'audience' a blank rubric. Explain that it is their job to judge the debate objectively.
7. Begin the debate with the pro side speaking first. Allow them 5-7 minutes of uninterrupted time to explain their position. Both members must participate equally.
8. Repeat step number seven for the con side.
9. Give both sides about three minutes to confer and prepare for their rebuttal.
10. Begin the rebuttals with the con side and give them three minutes to speak. Both members must participate equally.

Repeat step number 10 for the pro side. Allow the audience to ask questions of the debating teams.

### **Tips:**

1. Possibly give extra credit to the audience for well thought out questions.
2. Use the audience members' rubrics to help give comments on your official rubric for each team.

# THINGS I SUPPORT

Which of these debate topics do you support?  
After, compare with others and argue, take a stand!



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|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> mandatory voting         | <input type="checkbox"/> universal salary    | <input type="checkbox"/> easier adoption         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> free college/university  | <input type="checkbox"/> no drug advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> break up "Big Tech"     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gay marriage             | <input type="checkbox"/> no gambling         | <input type="checkbox"/> mandatory vaccination   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> death penalty - murder   | <input type="checkbox"/> ban violent sports  | <input type="checkbox"/> limit # of children     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment             | <input type="checkbox"/> tight immigration   | <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment insurance  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> funded religious schools | <input type="checkbox"/> total free speech   | <input type="checkbox"/> minimum wage            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high taxes on the rich   | <input type="checkbox"/> jury duty           | <input type="checkbox"/> public naming criminals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> right to own a gun       | <input type="checkbox"/> ban lotteries       | <input type="checkbox"/> needles for addicts     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> legalize marijuana       | <input type="checkbox"/> no homeless camping | <input type="checkbox"/> higher meat prices      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> criminalize debt         | <input type="checkbox"/> universal medicare  | <input type="checkbox"/> one car only            |

WHAT OTHER THINGS DO YOU TOTALLY SUPPORT?