

Fun Debate

Lesson Plan:

Objective: To have the students practice, in a non-threatening way, the fundamental debate skills of:

- researching
- organizing arguments
- speaking
- flowing
- questioning
- responding to opponent's arguments

Materials: Fun Debate Topic List and fun and friendly classroom atmosphere.

Procedure:

- After the basic skills of Debate have been taught, hand out the topic list.
- Cue the students that we are going to have some fun while practicing our skills.
- The teacher asks for a show of hands for each side of some of the topics. ("How many of you like English? How many like Math?" etc.)
- Have the students pair up with someone they choose.
- Have each pair choose a topic. (only one team to a topic)
- Have the students sign up for the day they wish to debate, two debates per period.
- Brainstorm with the class a topic not chosen. Write arguments, and evidence needed, on the board. Cue the students to find arguments in favor of their side as well as arguments against the other side.
- Allow the students to brainstorm arguments for their debate. Cue the students as to the importance of evidence to prove an argument. Teacher circulates and assists.
- Assign homework: an outline of arguments, and evidence needed, for their side and against their opponent.
- Cue the students that ALL students must flow the round and that their flow will be graded.
- The Teacher models the flowing of the first debate on the board (behind the debaters) so that the class can practice.
- Cue the students to write a formal ballot of the debate, choosing a winner and explaining why.
- Have a class discussion of each debate: who won and why, good arguments, speaking ability, evidence, reasoning, etc.

Assessment:

- Debate = 100 points, grade A, B, C, etc.
- Flows = 20 points each; grade one out of every three flows, A, B, C, etc. Grade the flows from the best debates.

Teachers or Students

Juniors or Seniors

Music or Movies

Fun Debate

Beach or Mountains	Disney or Looney Toons	Honest and Lose or Cheat and Win
English or Math	Single or Companion	Blind or Deaf
Liberal or Conservative	Mad or Sad	Short or Tall
Burger King or McDonald's	Home or Independence	Car or Truck
Health Food or Junk Food	Loud or Quiet	Superman or Batman
Words or Pictures	Beach or Pool	Vampires or Werewolves
Hurricanes or Earthquakes	Tupac Shakur or Notorious B.I.G.	Chevy or Ford
Love or Money	Rap or Rock n' Roll	Ugly or Stupid
Books or Movies	Comedy or Drama	Chorus or Band
Fact or Fiction	Makeup or Natural	Emotions or Mind
Disney World or Islands of Adventure	Speech or Debate	Mind-Reading or Invisibility
Weekday or Weekend	City or Country	Blissful Ignorance or Painful Truth
Cats or Dogs	Ninjas or Pirates	Smart or Athletic
Halloween or Christmas	Freaks or Preps	Big Fish, Little Pond or Little Fish, Big Pond
Girls or Boys	Night or Day	Live for the Moment or Sacrifice for the Future
Fire or Water	Sloppy or Neat	Wild Animals or Farm Animals
Cake or Pie	Beauty or Brains	
Hot Dogs or Hamburgers	Formal or Casual	
Private School or Public School	Paper or Plastic	
Basketball or Football	TV or Stereo	
Coke or Pepsi	Pen or Pencil	
Apples or Oranges	Liberty or Equality	
	Letterman or Leno	