



## Debate Terms

**Debate:** a discussion of reasons for or against a position

**Controversy:** a question about which differences of opinion exist; debate; dispute; argument

**Empathy:** putting yourself in someone's shoes; understanding someone's point of view

**Pro:** the affirmative side in a debate; the side that argues for the stated position

**Con:** the negative side in a debate; the side that argues against the stated position



## Persuasive Techniques

**Repetition:** restate opinion often

**Data:** include numbers, statistics, percentages

**Expert Testimonial:** cite people who have written about the topic

**Anecdotes:** include stories about personal experiences or others

**Bandwagon:** generalize or exaggerate for effect (e.g., all the kids at our school...)



## Suggested Debate Topics

- Should school libraries replace books with e-readers?
- Should there be year-round school?
- Should vending machines be allowed in schools?
- Should recess be eliminated in schools?
- Should children be allowed to use social media?
- Should young people be restricted from contact sports like football?
- Should there be more time for independent reading in schools?
- Should students wear school uniforms?
- Are video games harmful to children?
- Should cell phones be allowed in schools?
- Is there too much standardized testing?

# Debating Team Procedures

These procedures follow the Lincoln-Douglas debate format and allow for multiple students to participate on a team. Several students may share some of the roles if needed.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Procedure</i>
	<b>Moderator</b> announces topic to be debated. For example: <i>Should schools be year round?</i>
	<b>Time Keeper</b> keeps track of the time.
5 minutes each	<b>Lead Debater</b> for each side ("pro" and "con") presents position.
3 minutes each	<b>Cross Examiner</b> from each side asks questions of the <b>Question Answerer</b> from the opposing side.
3 minutes each	<b>Rebutter</b> from each side responds to the arguments raised by the questions from the opposing team.
3 minutes each	<b>Summarizer</b> from each side sums up the position of team and may include new issues brought up during the debate.



# Debating Team Rubric

## Common Core Criteria

### 3 Points

### 2 Points

### 1 Points

	3 Points	2 Points	1 Points
<b>Opinion Writing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>States claim clearly</li> <li>Offers appropriate reasons and compelling evidence</li> <li>Presentation is clearly organized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>States claim clearly</li> <li>Offers reasons and some evidence</li> <li>Presentation is organized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claim is implied</li> <li>Few or no reasons; little evidence</li> <li>Organization is hard to follow</li> </ul>
<b>Speaking &amp; Listening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses an enthusiastic tone to engage audience</li> <li>Uses persuasive techniques effectively</li> <li>Addresses opposing team's claims with counterpoints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varies tone to engage audience</li> <li>Uses persuasive techniques</li> <li>Acknowledges opposing team's claims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monotone voice or hard to understand</li> <li>Does not attempt to persuade</li> <li>Does not discuss the opposite point of view</li> </ul>
<b>Reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes sufficient specific text evidence, such as examples and facts, from texts and other sources to support reasons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes text evidence, such as examples and facts from texts and other sources, that connects to reason</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes little or no evidence from sources</li> </ul>

