

Tag-Team Debate

In a tag-team debate, students work in 2 groups, and there are opportunities for every student to participate. The teacher organizes two teams of no more than five to seven students to represent two sides of a debatable question. Each team has a set amount of time (three to five minutes) to present its point of view.

The teacher reads aloud the issue to be debated and then gives each team the opportunity to discuss its argument as a group. One speaker from each team takes the floor and speaks for no more than one minute. That speaker must "tag" another member of the team to pick up the argument at the end of his time or before his minute is up. A team member who is eager to pick up a point or add to the team's argument can raise his hand to be tagged.

No member of a team can be tagged twice until all members have had an opportunity to speak. Lastly, everyone will need to speak and will also need to be professional throughout the debate. After all teams have presented, students vote on which team made the best argument and debrief about the topic and experience.

