

Option 2: Informal Debate

You might consider using this option if time for the activity is very limited. Divide the class into two teams, one in support of and one against the debate statement. The teams should be seated facing one another. Select someone to be a timekeeper.

Arguments are presented by a team member from one side, followed by a team member from the other side. Arguments are presented alternately until all students have had an opportunity to speak. Each speaker is allowed 1 minute.

This debate should be spontaneous. Teams should not spend extensive time preparing but should, using the information provided by the

teacher, develop the arguments as the debate progresses. Students will need to listen carefully to the arguments and should try to introduce their own new ideas. The objective is to think and organize ideas quickly. It is almost like brainstorming; someone presents an idea and that idea leads to another idea. Each debater can build his or her idea from the previous idea or present a totally different one.

After all arguments have been presented, the class should discuss some of the main points that were brought out by each side and should decide what the best arguments were.

