

Pro/Con

Purpose:

To develop argumentation skills, critical thinking, and empathy by allowing students to research, present, and respond to opposing viewpoints in a structured debate format.

Step-by-Step Protocol:

1. Present the Topic (1–2 minutes)

Introduce a debatable topic with clear pro and con sides (e.g., “Should schools require uniforms?”).

2. Assign Roles (1–2 minutes)

Divide students into two teams or pairs. Assign one group to argue the pro side and the other the con side. Ensure students understand their role, even if it doesn't match their personal opinion.

3. Research & Prepare (10–15 minutes)

Each team researches their side, gathers evidence, and organizes 2–3 strong points. Encourage use of credible sources, text references, or class content.

4. Debate (10–15 minutes)

Teams take turns presenting their arguments and responding to counterarguments. Encourage respectful rebuttals and use of sentence stems (e.g., “We disagree because...” or “Another perspective is...”).

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5. Perspective Shift (5 minutes)

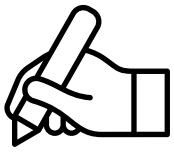
Students write a brief paragraph from the opposite perspective, acknowledging the strengths of the other side's argument.

6. Reflect (3–5 minutes)

Students reflect on the experience. They may discuss whether their opinion has changed or what they learned from the opposing viewpoint.

Optional Extensions:

- Use sentence starters to support students new to debate.
- Provide a rubric or checklist for evaluating argument quality and delivery.
- Encourage students to conduct follow-up research or write a formal argumentative essay.



PRO/CON



Name: _____ Date: _____

Debate/Topic: _____

My assigned side (circle one): PRO | CON

Main points I plan to argue:

1. _____

2. _____

Evidence to support my side:

Counterpoints I heard during the debate:

1. _____

2. _____

Perspective shift: Write a short paragraph from the opposing side's point of view.

Reflection:

Did your opinion change? What did you learn from the debate?
