

Debate and Argument

Debate

To debate means to argue one side of an issue, by using logic, persuasion and proof.

A debate is a discussion in which two teams argue opposite positions on an issue.

Before you debate an issue with another person, you must first develop a good argument. A good argument depends on logic, persuasion and proof.

Logic

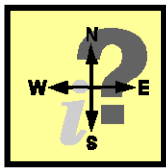
- uses **good judgement** and **reasoning**
 - uses **sensible, rational ideas**

Persuasion

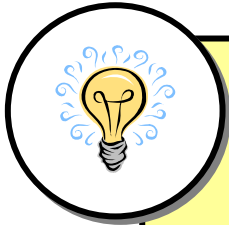
- has **clear points**
 - is delivered with **confidence**
 - **convinces** others to agree

Proof

- includes **statistics, graphs, pictures, charts, quotes** and **facts** that support the position



Preparing to Debate



Tip!

You don't have to debate with another person to use this process. You can write your argument in a report or article instead of presenting it in front of an audience.

Step #1

Research your topic.

Research and analyze the issue you are going to discuss. Use [Analyzing an Issue](#) to investigate both sides of the issue.

Step #2

Choose a side.

Decide on your position on the issue.

Step #3

Find proof that supports your argument.

Think about why you feel the way you do. Look for statistics, graphs, pictures, charts, quotes and facts that support your position.

Step #4

Organize your argument.

Use [Developing Your Argument](#) or another graphic organizer to organize your argument.

Step #5

Consider how people will argue the other side of the issue.

What statistics, graphs, pictures, charts, quotes and facts will they have to support their position? How will you respond to their argument? How will you defend your position? Use [Responding to the Other Side](#) to help you prepare.

Step #6

Get ready to debate.

Use [Checklist for Debate/Argument](#) to make sure you are prepared.