

Formalities of the Structured Academic Controversy

- I. Divide Students into groups of 4.
 - A. Split each group into two pairs. Each Group is assigned one side of the Argument (The Super claim)
2. Read Documents: Each Pair studies one side of the argument by reading the background material, their side of the issue, or the entire article.
 - A. Each pair identifies claims and reasoning and evidence within the text to support their position
3. Discussion:
 - A. Pair #1 advocates their position while Pair #2 takes notes citing specific claims.
 1. Pair #2 shares back what they learned and ask clarifying questions about information presented.
 2. Students DO NOT exchange papers to complete this task.
 - B. Pair #2 advocates their position while Pair #1 takes notes citing specific claims.
 1. Pair #1 shares back what they learned and ask clarifying questions about information presented.
 2. Students DO NOT exchange papers to complete this task
4. Common Ground and Further Questions
 - A. Students work together as a group of four to synthesize the ideas and come to consensus on at least on major point.
 - B. Students should also identify at least one area where they agree to need more information or clarification.
5. Whole Class Debrief/Reflection
 - A. Reflect upon content
 - B. Reflect upon process

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Allow students to review material prior to SAC (if assigned for homework etc.)
- Provide some type of literacy strategy- annotation, note taker, highlighting, etc.)
- Build comprehension around background knowledge, vocabulary, and layout of documents.
- USE A TIMER. HAVE BREAKDOWN OF TIME SEQUENCE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS TO SCAN.
- When students are teaching the argument to each other, have them flip their handouts over. They should have to explain, rather than read their most compelling reasons. They cannot just exchange papers.
- Designate a lead facilitator
- WHOLE GROUP DEBRIEF!!! Make time for this!

Structured Academic Controversy

Question: _____

My argument/super claim: _____

Background Reading

Vocabulary words I should know and use	Important facts from background reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••••	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••••

Preparing My Argument

My Claims and Reasoning	My Evidence and Reasoning
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

The Other Side of the Issue

Opposing Claims and Reasoning

Opposing Evidence and Reasoning

1.

2.

3.

Common Ground and Further Questions

Using evidence, we can agree that...

We need further clarification on...

1.

1.

2.

2.

3.

3.

What did you learn about (insert question here)? What is your final position on the issue? Use at least three pieces of evidence to explain why.

Reflect on your participation in the discussion. What did you do well? What do you need to improve upon?