

Defending an opinion, justifying a request and debating



13-15

60 m

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn how to defend their opinion and justify a request
- Learn how to conduct a debate
- Familiarise students with the terms “netiquette” and “keyboard warrior”

MATERIALS NEEDED

- A computer
- A projector
- The debate worksheet you can find at the end of this sequence
- This YouTube video [“Should TikTok be banned? TikTok Ban Debate | Do you agree or disagree that TikTok Should be banned”](#) from Illustrate to Educate Channel
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LEARNING SCENARIO AND ACTIVITIES PROPOSED

1) Presentation (20 minutes)

The teacher introduces the topic and asks the students why it is important to learn how to defend their opinion and justify it. The teacher explains the concept of a debate, and the students brainstorm instances where one may take place. The teacher emphasizes that informal debates occur on social media every day. The teacher defines the terms “netiquette” and “keyboard warrior”.

2) Practice (20 minutes)

The students learn useful phrases they can use to express and defend their opinion and justify a request. The teacher splits the class into two groups (for and against) and asks them to debate whether TikTok should be banned. The students practice their arguments and the language they will use. The teacher provides the students with the YouTube video with useful information they can use to defend the topic and worksheets to organise their ideas.

3) Production (20 minutes)

The two groups engage in the debate. Certain students will assume the roles of the judges.

EXPECTED DIFFICULTIES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Some students may avoid exposure and public speaking, thus participating in the debate. The teacher should create a welcoming atmosphere and emphasize that nobody will be put down for their mistakes.
- Some students may need help understanding the video, which is in English. The teacher, bearing in mind that, should be ready to stop the video from time to time and supplement it with some explanations.
- The number of debating groups could be changed according to the number of students and their abilities.

ASSESSMENT

- The students engage in peer assessment, based on criteria set by the teacher before the beginning of the debate.
- The students are also asked to surf the net to find informal online debates and write a paragraph on how they would respond to “keyboard warriors” while respecting “netiquette”.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [“Netiquette Guidelines” from the Columbus State University Center of Online Learning](#)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning of Northern Illinois University. (n.d.). “Classroom Debates”, <https://www.niu.edu/citl/resources/guides/instructional-guide/classroom-debates.shtml>
- (n.d.). FREE Debate Outline. Canada - Manitoba; The Classroom Sparrow, [FREE Debate Outline by The Classroom Sparrow | TPT \(teacherspayteachers.com\)](#)
- Center of Online Learning of Columbus State University. (n.d.). “Netiquette guidelines” <https://www.columbusstate.edu/online-learning/standards/netiquette-guidelines.php>
- Illustrate to Educate. (2023). “Should TikTok be banned? TikTok Ban Debate. Do you agree or disagree that TikTok Should be banned” YouTube. Retrieved June 29, 2023, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0A6JQx-8GDQ>.

Debate Research Outline

Topic: _____

Without doing any research, identify some basic points for each side:

POINTS TO SUPPORT (Side #1)	POINTS TO SUPPORT (Side #2)

What is it all about? Are you **for** or **against** your topic?

Background history – find information to support your side:

FOR – Body of debate

Find/identify/locate three reasons why you do support the designated topic with *at least* three pieces of evidence to support each:

First reason: _____

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

Sources used:

Additional information:

Second reason: _____

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

Sources used:

Additional information:

Third reason: _____

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

Sources used:

Additional information:

AGAINST – Body of debate

Find/identify/locate three reasons why you do not support the designated topic with *at least* three pieces of evidence to support each:

First reason: _____

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

Sources used:

Additional information:

Second reason: _____

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

Sources used:

Additional information:

Third reason: _____

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

Sources used:

Additional information: