

Speech and Debate Lesson Plans for 5th – 8th grades

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Lesson Two: The Steps to a Basic Debate

When presenting a debate your goal is to prove a point through well explained, researched ideas presented respectfully

Step One: Choose a Topic.

For this activity choose a topic that is a little bit silly.

Ideas:

- A) Lemonade is better than Iced Tea
- B) Tank tops are better than Tshirts
- C) Dogs are better than cats

The statement you choose is called your thesis.

Step Two:

Research your topic and come up with 3 reasons that help to prove your point.

Example Idea A)

- 1. Lemons are high in vitamin C, and vitamin C has the following health benefits.....
- 2. Sour Flavors that make you pucker are fun, and make you feel happy...
- 3. Lemonade stands make more money than Iced tea stands...

Step Three:

Present your idea to someone and see if they agree with you after you finish.

NEXT TIME:

In our 3rd lesson we will add the next steps for debate which include:

- 1. Anticipating responses/ rebuttals to your argument (statement) and preparing your own rebuttals for these anticipated responses.