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| **Teacher’s Name:** | **Unit Name:**  **Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas, Policy** |
| **Lesson Title**  **Lesson 1: What Is Debate?** | **Indicate which:**  **Beginner** Intermediate Advanced |
| **Focus Skill:**  **Introduction to the concept of debate** | **Time Frame:**  **1 Hour (could be extended)** |

**PART 1—ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS**

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| **Essential Question** | **How does a debate differ from an Argument?** |
| **Objective 1** | Students will engage in multiple informal debates. |
| **Objective 2** | Students will defend the side that they prefer as well as the side they don’t prefer. |
| **Objective 3** |  |

**Overview of Lesson** *(General summary of what will be covered)***:**

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| This is meant to be an introductory lesson to just get the kids talking in class and beginning to argue in public. |

**PART 2—THE LESSON**

**Detailed Step-by-Step Lesson** *(be sure to include time allocation information)***:**

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| **Session #** | **Time** | **Details of the Lesson** |
|  | **5 min.** | **Define Debate vs Argument (See last pages)**  Just simply give the informal definitions |
|  | **60 min.** | **Spar debates**  Ask for two volunteers  Have a coin toss.  Give the winner a choice of two or three topics from the list, and then let the loser of the toss choose what side s/he wants  Give the loser of the toss one minute to talk about why her/his side should win  Give the winner of the toss one minute to talk about why her/his side should win.  Keep repeating.  As the students get more comfortable, you can give each side two minutes. You can give small prizes for those who can fill up the entire time. You can pick a few students to declare winners.  This is also a go-to lesson when you are trying to have a fun day in class even when the kids are at expert level. |
|  | **HW** | **Have students come up with five unique spar debates to add to your list.** Call them up one at a time to post ideas on the board and do not allow repeats. |

**PART 3—ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE**

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| **Performance Task, Product, or Other Key Evidence of Learning** *(How will students demonstrate a level of proficiency for this skill?)*  Students will be on public display to show the skills that they are bringing to class using light arguing skills. |

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| **Key criteria to measure Performance Task(s) or Key Evidence:**  *Examples: Rubric, Checklist, etc***.** |

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| **Assessment Strategies** *(Identify Informal/Formal Strategies)***:** |

**Plans for after this lesson/competency is complete (How will you extend, enrich?):**

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**Key Resources Used: Websites, books, film clips, etc.**

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| **Names of Resource(s):** | **Access to Resource(s) if available:** |
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**Key Resources for Exploration: Websites, books, film clips, etc.**

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| **Names of Resource(s):** | **Access to Resource(s) if available:** |
| **Spar Cards** If you choose to not make up your own questions | **Available for purchase**  **http://www.theinterpstore.com/games/spar/** |
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**Reflections/Review for Future:**

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**Difference between an argument and a debate.**

An argument is less formal than a debate. An argument is your opinion or opinions trying to convince someone else of something with or without research.

A debate is a formal presentation of arguments – with evidence – and time restrictions.

**Non-serious topics**

Backpacks are better than lockers.

Belts are better than suspenders.

Blondes have more fun.

Bowling should be the national sport of the United States.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

Buttons are better than zippers.

Cats are better pets than dogs.

Children watch too much TV.

Cows are better than horses.

Disneyland represents all that is best about America.

Doritos are better than Pringles.

Halloween is a better holiday than Valentine’s Day.

Make up should be banned from high schools.

Penmanship should be a required subject in high school.

Rock is better than Rap.

Showers are better than baths.

Santa is better than the Easter Bunny.

There should be a single presidential term of six years.

**Serious Topics:**

Advertising does more harm than good.

Affirmative Action is a good thing.

Businesses should favor maximizing profits over social welfare.

Corporations should have the right to vote.

Couples should be banned from adopting children overseas.

The driving age should be raised.

Federal judges should be elected.

Gay marriage should be legalized.

Global warming is the most pressing issue in our world today.   
Gun control laws should be altered.

Illegal downloading of music is a good thing.

The government should be allowed to hide things from the citizenry.

Personality is more important than experience in a leader.

Puerto Rico should become a state.

Nuclear energy is the power source of the future.

Schools should only grade with a pass/fail system.

The people should vote for Supreme Court justices.

Terrorists should be tried in American courts.

The two-party system is a bad thing.

Universal health care should be a right