**MS Big Question - Lesson #7**

**Unit Name**: Debate Drills

**Topic**: Quick Casing

**Essential Questions**:

1. Question 1 - What arguments best support the position?
2. Question 2 - What is the best sequence in which to order the arguments?
3. Question 3 - What evidence is needed to support the arguments?

**Objectives**:

1. Objective 1 - Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.
2. Objective 2 - Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
3. Objective 3 - Delineate a speaker’s argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.

**Instructional Materials Needed**:

One page outline template (teacher created) if desired. Students can also write on their own paper OR use notecards - one notecard each for introduction, each argument, and conclusion.

Use of materials will depend on whether this is an introductory lesson or a stand alone activity, and the level of the class.

**References** *(if applicable)*:

None.

**Overview of Lesson** *(general outline of what will be covered)*:

Students will be presented with a series of topics and then generate complete cases (three arguments in a logical sequence) to defend their position in a short amount of time.

**Detailed Step-by-Step Lesson***)*:

1.5 minutes - Review argument structure and requirements for cases.

2. 2-3 minutes - Divide students into pairs.

3. 2-3 minutes - Give each pair of students a topic. One person will be the affirmative and one will be the negative.

Topics should be simple and accessible at first. As the activity continues and the students gain confidence topic difficulty can be increased. Sample topics are included at the end of the lesson plan.

The idea is to pick topics that do not require access to evidence in order to generate ideas for arguments.

4. 10 minutes - Give students a set amount of time (use a timer) to construct a simple debate case with an introduction, three arguments (logically ordered), and a conclusion. Have them write in outline form to practice that skill.

5. 10 minutes - When the time is up, students should take turns sharing their cases. After the affirmative shares their case, the negative can ask up to two questions. The affirmative can answer them. Then after the negative shares, the affirmative can ask two questions and the negative may answer.

6. 10 minutes - After both have shared, switch sides. Have them generate two NEW arguments. Give them half the time this time. After each side shares, their partner may ask one question.

7. 5 minutes - Large group discussion. Ask students what difficulty they ran into, if any. How did they determine argument order? What evidence would they want to find if they were debating these cases? Redirect as needed based on input.

8. 10 minutes - Switch partners. Give them new topics and repeat. The goal is to get through 3-5 sets of topics during a class period. By the end of the period they will hopefully have developed some confidence in their ability to generate ideas a little more quickly.

**Informal Assessment Strategies**:

Monitor and moderate student participation. Redirect as necessary during the activity and between topic changes.

**Formal Assessment Strategies**:

This is a participation activity that can be used alone or as part of a larger debate unit. No formal assessment required.

**Reflection/Review for Future**:

This activity can be modified to use for cross-examination practice by extending the questioning time as cases are shared.

**Sample Topics for Students**

1. Marvel superheroes would be better than DC superheroes at protecting our city.
2. Cellphones have made our lives better
3. Schools should be required to provide students with laptops/tablets for homework.
4. School should be 4 days a week
5. All students must wear uniforms
6. Students should be allowed to use cellphones during school
7. Superman is a better superhero than Batman
8. Cats make better pets than dogs
9. Summer is the best season
10. Pepperoni pizza is better than cheese pizza
11. Homework should be banned
12. The Lion King is the best Disney movie
13. Coke is better than Pepsi
14. A hotdog is a sandwich
15. Everyone should be required to be a vegetarian