



2.2 Topic Warm-up Cards

This activity basic public speaking skills and issues on the current debate topic. Using cards with topics for impromptu debate, students will engage in quick 1-minute pro and con speeches on issues related to the current resolution. In addition to introducing students to the resolution, this exercise is a good introductory speaking activity for beginners or a warm-up activity for the beginning of a class or practice.

Objectives

By the end of this activity, each student will:

- be introduced to issues relevant to the current debate topic.
- practice developing basic arguments under time constraint.
- become more familiar with speaking in front of the class.

Time Allotment

5-50 minutes. The time length may be varied to suit the purpose, and the number of students participating. You may wish to extend this activity across several days by holding 1-2 impromptu debates at the beginning of each class until every student has had a chance to participate.

Materials and Preparation

Prepare a set of index cards with debate topics written on them. The topics should thematically relate to the current resolution, but should be phrased as questions or statements that students can make arguments for and against without additional research.

Method

Select one volunteer from the class to give the first speech. Ask the volunteer to draw a card and give her 2 minutes to prepare a 1-minute speech in favor of the question. Instruct the rest of the class to get out a paper and pen to take notes on the speaker's arguments.

Ask the speaker to give a speech, as the rest of the class flows. Once the speaker is finished, call on a second student to prepare a 1-minute negative speech refuting the first speaker's arguments. Allow volunteers from the class to ask the first speaker questions as the second speaker prepares. Then, the negative speaker should deliver a speech.

Repeat the activity by inviting another student to draw a card and deliver a speech, and by calling on another student to refute the initial claim.