

23. DEMONSTRATION DEBATE

GOAL:

To provide students with a detailed understanding of what a debate looks like.

METHOD:

- Have students watch a debate, either performed live by experienced debaters, or on videotape. The debate doesn't need to be perfect. In fact, it may be better if it is flawed. Students will be less intimidated and will get a chance to discuss how the debate might have been improved.
 - While watching the debate, students should keep a written flow, as well as notes on what they liked or disliked and a list of terms and arguments that they did not understand.
 - Afterward, the instructor can lead a discussion on several themes:
 - What were the main arguments advanced in the debate?**
 - What arguments did students disagree with most, and why?**
 - What strategies would students have used in answering the arguments made in the debate?**
 - What were students' favorite part of the debate, and why?**
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