

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title – Debates

Debate Format - Using the attached materials, classroom teachers can develop debate activities on any social studies topic.

Please feel free to modify these worksheets to meet the needs of your topic and grade level.

Grade – 7-12

Time – One class period per debate or two debates possible during a block schedule

Objectives –

1. Students will work in cooperative groups (no larger than 6 per group) to research an assigned position.
2. Students will read critically for information.
3. Students will collaborate to synthesize pertinent information from various sources into coherent arguments to use in their debate.
4. Students will analyze opposing arguments and develop well-reasoned responses.
5. Students will develop and demonstrate the skill of civil discourse

Activity – Classroom debate.

Materials attached:

Debate format

Debate roles

Debate rules and suggestions

Debate grading rubric

Connecticut Performance Standards:

- gather, analyze and reconcile historical information, including contradictory data, from primary and secondary sources to support or reject hypotheses;
- evaluate data within the historical, social, political and economic context in which it was created, testing its credibility and evaluating its bias;
- initiate questions and hypotheses about historic events they are studying;