

Cannabis Debate

Time: 75 minutes

Materials

- To Weed or Not to Weed Question Sheet
- Debate Debriefing Worksheet

Instructions

- Divide the class into two groups and assign one group to debate “For” and one group to debate “Against” the chosen debate topic
- Students will debate over one of the following questions:
 - **Is 19 a suitable age to purchase and consume cannabis?**
 - **Should cannabis be legal?**
 - **Does legalization of cannabis lead to increased use among youth?**
- Each group will get 10-15 minutes to research their perspective on the chosen topic
- Groups must come up with five main points to defend their perspective
- To decide which team goes first, have one student from each team play rock paper scissors. The winning team will go first
- Teams will have 2-3 minutes to present and defend their first point, and the other team will have 1 minute to rebuttal against it
- The next team will then present their main point
- The debate is over when both teams have presented all of their main points
- Using the Debate Debriefing Worksheet, discuss the key themes and points of the debate

Variations

- Preparation: move the desks to either side of the classroom
- Divide the class into two even groups
- Have one group form an inner circle then have the second group form an outer circle
- Each student should be facing another student
- The teacher will read one statement from the To Weed or Not to Weed Worksheet

- Students will then have 20 seconds to discuss this statement with the person standing in front of them
- After the 20 seconds, ask the students to share what they discussed and debrief using the information provided on the question sheet
- The circle will now rotate. The outer circle will take two steps to their right and each student will be matched up with a new partner
- The teacher will then ask the next question and the game will continue as described until all the questions have been asked