



Lesson Plan: The Great Debate

Lesson Activity Steps:

| Purpose | Teacher | Students |
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| Hook 5 minutes | Teacher starts yelling “Fire” and starts a discussion about if it is right to do that when there is no fire. | Actively discuss with the teacher the consequences of saying “Fire” when nothing is on fire. |
| Set 10 minutes | Introduce Big ideas and objectives for this lesson. | Listen to the teacher |
| Into 20 minutes | Watch videos of each case from the Courts in the Classroom and have them fill out the worksheet. | Students watch the videos and fill out the worksheet. |
| Through 10 minutes | Have the students pick the topics for the debates | Students pick a topic they want to be for the debate |
| Through 20 minutes | Go over the persuasive writing format for their debate and the rubrics for the writing and oral debate | Students listen and present any questions about the task to the teacher. |
| Assessment 1-2 hours for writing and 1 hour for the class debate | Students will write their persuasive essays on a lined piece of paper and discuss ideas with their neighbors. Students present their debates to the class (also being recorded on the microphone). | Students writing their persuasive essay and discussing with their neighbors. Students presenting their debate to the class |



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| Closure 20 minutes | Having students listen to their recordings. | Students listening to their recordings and grading themselves on their persuasive checklist. |
| Beyond | Students find recent U.S. Supreme court cases online or in the newspaper and we discuss the decisions in class | Students finding real cases online or in the newspaper and discuss with the other students in class |

Special Needs of students are considered in this lesson:

Students are put into groups that will benefit learning for all types of learners and special needs. Each student has a different part in the debate so all students will participate in the writing of the essay and the debate. The teacher will also provide persuasive essay writing outlines to help ELL and special needs students.

Extension Ideas:

The extension idea for this unit is to do a class debate each month on different topics so we can extend this unit by using our other topics we cover in history for debate such as a Patriot and Loyalist debate or who really discovered the New World debate. This lesson can be extended by finding other recent U.S. Supreme court cases to debate.