

How organized DEBATE & DISAGREEMENTS can help students write the GED® extended response ESSAY



Each of you should have a TOOLKIT PACKET for your reference of some of the things we'll discuss today. Some are goodies I've found online or created myself.



Please write all BURNING QUESTIONS on your Q&A sheet along with your name and email.





At certain points along the way, you'll have an opportunity to ask your questions. If I don't have a chance to answer your questions, simply TURN IN YOUR Q&A SHEET and I'll respond via email as soon as possible.



At the end of today's discussion, please fill out the SESSION EVALUATION CARD and leave it with me.



BEFORE YOU START: ESTABLISH THE GROUND RULES

- Listen respectfully, without interrupting.
- Actively listen to understand others' views.
- Criticize ideas, not individuals.
- Avoid judging, blaming, and bad language.
- Stay within your allowed time to speak.



WHY STUDENTS OFTEN GET "0" ON THE ESSAY

(*INFO IN YOUR TOOL KIT)

- They simply SUMMARIZED what they read
- They COPY & PASTED their essay (Not enough original information to be scored)
- They didn't follow the PROMPT/THEY'RE OFF TOPIC
- They got TOO PERSONAL
- They DIDN'T WRITE ENOUGH information
- Too many GRAMMATICAL ERRORS to be understood



THEY NEED SOME BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

You must introduce skills such as:

- CLOSE READING- No more topic writing
- How to IDENTIFY EVIDENCE within text (*Info in your cheat sheet)
- Ways to USE EVIDENCE to support claims while avoiding PLAGIARISMS
- How to argue a side you DON'T AGREE with it
- How to INTRODUCE your essay (*Info in your tool kit)

MOST COMMON COMPLAINTS OF STUDENTS & HOW DEBATE HELPS THEM WITH THESE ISSUES

"I can't think of what to say" "I haven't written in years" "I hate writing"

"I don't know the right words to express my thoughts"

"I think too slow"

"English isn't my first language"

"I don't like to argue"

Debate gets them so focused on proving their point, that they often forget about their insecurities and begin to do what comes naturally, which is proving the validity of what they're saying to those around them.



DEBATE PREPARES STUDENTS BEYOND "THE TEST"

Students MUST be able to communicate verbally in the workplace, on job interviews, in their post-secondary classes, and in day-to-day life. Debate helps with:

- Teamwork
- Creative Thinking
- Leadership
- Oral
 Communication
- Goal Setting
- Organization Skills

- Problem Solving
- Builds Confidence
- Conducting
 Research







GATHER THE PLAYERS

Decide how many individuals you want to represent each side of the issue. A debate usually involves three groups:

- PROS= supporting a resolution (affirmative team)
- CONS= opposing the resolution (opposing team),
- JUDGE(S)= score the quality of the evidence, logic, and performance in the debate. (Can be the teacher or group)



Grouping Ideas (*Ideas in your tool kit)

THE BIGGER THE CONTROVERSY, THE BETTER THE FIGHT!



- Pick subjects that will likely "stir the pot"
- ·Select issues that are relevant today & they can relate to
 - Random topic selection vs. teacher assigned topics

Tattoos
Violent Video Games

Legalizing Marijuana

Mandatory Recycling

Studying with Music

Mandatory Parenting Classes





THE TOPIC:

SHOULD TEACHERS
CARRY GUNS
AT SCHOOL?





WHICH TEAM HAD THE STRUNGBST ARGUMENT?



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