Planning Class Debate Lessons to Stimulate Student Public Speaking and Critical Thinking Skills

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Teaching & Learning Fair - Problem Based (Other) virtual asynchronous
Teaching & Learning Fair Presentation
Abstract 2020-326 Session: Teaching & Learning Fair II

Planning class debate lessons can develop student public speaking and critical thinking skills. Other benefits include student participation, active learning, class enjoyment, and promoting student commitments outside of class. Challenges include off topic discussion during debates, clear definition of mediator responsibilities, negative impact when missing students in class, and application of debates for a bigger group or different group dynamics. Class debates are fun way to engage and promote student learning, particularly public speaking and critical thinking skills. The goal of this presentation is to share ideas to incorporate debates in your classes.