**Mini Musical Debate**

Musical debates amplify the energy, creativity, and social interaction in the physical classroom. By adding a simple twist of music, it lightens the mood and provides natural brain breaks so students have time to collect their thoughts.

Here are Melissa’s simple steps for using this debate-style discussion strategy in your classroom:

1. Give students a thought-provoking or humorous prompt.
2. Play music as students think, research, jot notes, and (if possible) walk around the room.
3. Stop the music and have students get into groups of two or three.
4. Students quickly choose roles. Two of the students need to take one of the sides (pro / con or for / against). The third person is a neutral judge who can build on what the speakers say, offer a different perspective, or make connections between ideas.
5. After a set amount of time, follow up with a question that digs deeper into the topic or provides another angle. Play music, and allow students to brainstorm again, or take some notes.
6. Students then pair up again with different peers.
7. After as many rounds as you would like to run, bring the whole class together and use a Jamboard, Mentimeter, or Padlet as a common visual location to share ideas as a whole group.

Topics:

1. A hot dog is a sandwich.

2. A taco is a sandwich.

3. There’s no point in eating french fries without ketchup.

4. Pepperoni is the best pizza topping.

5. Peanut butter is better than Nutella.

6. Hot chocolate is better than a chocolate milkshake.

7. Fruit counts as dessert.

8. Coca-Cola is better than Pepsi.

9. Round pizzas are better than rectangular ones.

10. Ice cream is better than cake.

11. McDonald’s is the best fast-food restaurant.

12. Chocolate ice cream is better than vanilla.

13. Humans should eat to live, not live to eat.

14. Chocolate chip cookies are the best kind of cookies.

15. Hot chocolate is better than eggnog.

16. You should never put ketchup on a hot dog.

17. You should never put pineapple on a pizza.

18. Macaroni and cheese should be eaten with a spoon, not a fork.

19. You should put cereal in the bowl first, followed by milk.

20. A corner brownie is better than one in the middle.

21. Chicken wings are better than mini drumsticks.

**Mini Debates Notes:**

Topic:

Notes:

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Notes:

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Topic:

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