

Debate: Critical Thinking in the Age of AI

SMaiLE Project

Key Information

Target Group: 13 - 16 y.o.

Duration: 60 min

Key Learning Goals:

1. **Critical Thinking:** Empower students to think ethically about AI.
2. **Research:** Develop skills to find and evaluate information.
3. **Communication:** Present arguments clearly and listen respectfully.
4. **Collaboration:** Work effectively in teams to build strategies.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING:

- Define basic AI concepts (algorithms, chatbots).
- Identify potential benefits and risks of AI in diverse contexts.
- Explain different ethical viewpoints.

SKILLS & ABILITIES:

- Conduct independent research using appropriate sources.
- Formulate arguments supported by evidence.
- Distinguish between facts and opinions.

ATTITUDES & VALUES:

- Demonstrate curiosity about technology's societal impact.
- Value ethical considerations and responsible AI use.

European Dimension / Erasmus+ Connection

- **EU Values:** Discussing democracy, human rights, and privacy (GDPR).
- **Cross-Border Collaboration:** Sharing research and debates with European partners.



- **Digital Citizenship:** Combating misinformation and promoting digital literacy.



1. Resources and Tools

- **Materials:** "Understanding Team Policy Debate" Infographic, Intro PPT.
- **Assessment:** Judging Rubrics, Self-Evaluation forms.
- **Tech:** Computers with Wi-Fi, Projector, Padlet for audience voting.

Activity Overview

Phase	Time	Activity
Intro	10 min	Context: Introduction via video/story. Defining roles (Affirmative/Negative).
Prep	20 min	Research: Group work to find evidence and prepare speeches.
Debate	20 min	Action: Team policy debate with structured rounds (Opening, Crossfire, Rebuttal).
Reflect	10 min	Evaluation: Scoring, audience voting (Padlet), and self-reflection.

2. Topics for Debate

Phase 2.1: AI in Education

- **Surveillance:** "Should AI be used to monitor students in schools?" (Safety vs. Privacy).
- **Tools:** "Should schools teach students how to use AI tools like ChatGPT?"

Phase 2.2: AI and Ethics

- **Healthcare:** "Should decisions about patient care be made by AI?"
- **Employment:** "Should AI be used to decide who gets a job?"

Phase 2.3: AI in Everyday Life

- **Social Media:** "Should AI control what we see on social media?" (Algorithms vs. Free Choice).
- **Transport:** "Should you trust an autonomous car?"

3. The Debate Structure

- **Constructive Speeches:** Teams present their case (2 min).
- **Cross-Examination:** Direct questioning of opponents (3 min).
- **Rebuttal:** Refuting arguments (5 min).

4. Reflection and Evaluation

- **Judges:** Score based on Arguments (30%), Evidence (25%), Delivery (20%), and Rebuttals (15%).
- **Audience:** Participate via Padlet to vote for the most convincing team.
- **Self-Eval:** Students reflect on their own performance.