

# Debate: Critical Thinking in the Age of AI

SMaILE Project

## Key Information

**Target Group:** 8 - 12 y.o.

**Duration:** 120 min

## Key Learning Goals:

- Critical Thinking:** Analyze AI topics from multiple perspectives.
- Communication:** Formulate clear arguments and persuasive speeches.
- Collaboration:** Work effectively in teams to build strategies.
- Ethical Awareness:** Identify benefits and risks of AI technology.

## Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

### KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING:

- Define basic AI concepts (algorithms, chatbots).
- Identify ethical benefits and risks of AI in daily life.
- Explain different viewpoints on complex issues.

### SKILLS & ABILITIES:

- Conduct basic research using safe sources.
- Present arguments clearly and listen respectfully to others.
- Distinguish between facts and opinions.

### ATTITUDES & VALUES:

- Demonstrate curiosity about technology's impact.
- Value respectful dialogue and democratic engagement.

## European Dimension / Erasmus+ Connection

- Civic Engagement:** Encourages active participation in social discussions.
- Digital Citizenship:** Prepares students to be responsible users of technology.



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- **Critical Thinking:** A key competence for the 21st century.



## 1. Resources and Tools

- **Guidance:** "Understanding Team Policy Debate" Infographic (provided).
- **Presentation:** Team Policy Debate PPT (provided).
- **Assessment:** Judging Rubric and Self-Evaluation Form (provided).
- **Tech:** Laptops for research, Padlet for audience participation.

## Activity Overview

Phase	Time	Activity
Intro	15 min	<b>What is Debate?</b> Explaining rules and roles (Affirmative/Negative). Introduction of Topics.
Prep	45 min	<b>Research &amp; Strategy:</b> Teams research evidence and prepare arguments.
Debate	45 min	<b>The Debate:</b> Structured rounds of speeches, crossfire questions, and rebuttals.
Reflect	15 min	<b>Evaluation:</b> Judges score, Audience votes, Students self-evaluate.

## 2. Introduction and Motivation

**Goal:** Understand the debate format.

- **Structure:** Explain the roles using the Infographic.
- **Topics:**
  1. "Should AI cameras monitor students in schools?"
  2. "Do Chatbot assistants make students less creative?"

## 3. Research and Learning

**Goal:** Build a strong case.

- Teams conduct research to find facts and evidence.
- **Affirmative:** Focus on benefits (safety, efficiency).
- **Negative:** Focus on risks (privacy, dependency).
- Teams prepare their Opening Statements.

## 4. The Debate (Creative Application)

**Goal:** Present and persuade.

- **Constructive Speeches (5 min):** Each team presents their main points.
- **Crossfire (5 min):** Teams ask each other questions.
- **Rebuttal & Closing (5 min):** Respond to opponents and summarize.



## 5. Reflection and Evaluation

**Goal:** Assessment and feedback.

- **Judges:** Use the Rubric to score arguments (30%), evidence (25%), and delivery (20%).
- **Audience:** Share thoughts and vote on Padlet.
- **Self-Eval:** Students complete the reflection form.