



From the kitchen of: Center for Innovative Learning



What's cooking: Group Work—Debate

### INGREDIENTS

Topic/Issue      Affirmative/Opposing Sides

Teams            Evidence

Discussion Boards    Debate Structure & Rules

### TIPS

\* Encourage students to meet in their groups to plan arguments

\* Be clear in your instructions how group members should contribute

\* If possible, have an advisor work with small groups to shape their arguments

\* Use of a case study can help give students a foundation in the issue to be debated

### METHOD

1. Determine debate issue and affirmative and opposing sides

2. Determine debate structure (e.g., Lincoln-Douglass style)

3. Write rules for debate

4. Divide students into teams and assign sides

5. Provide students with background information for the debate

6. Create groups in Blackboard: >Users and Groups, >Groups, Create, >Create Single Group, Manual Enroll, add students

7. In group options, leave Discussion board checked, Click Submit

8. Find impartial judges to score debate

9. Hold the debate during class

10. Provide students with feedback on judge scorecards