

Teacher guide:

Divide students into an even number of groups. Assign one of two sides to each group: half of the groups will argue for splitting from Britain and the other half will argue for staying with Britain. If you would like, you can split students based on the side that their character would likely choose.

Hand out the following two pages to students. The first page outlines the structure of the debate as well as arguments both sides would make. The second, the graphic organizer, provides questions for students to answer as the debate progresses. There are built-in times for students to fill out their graphic organizer throughout the debate.

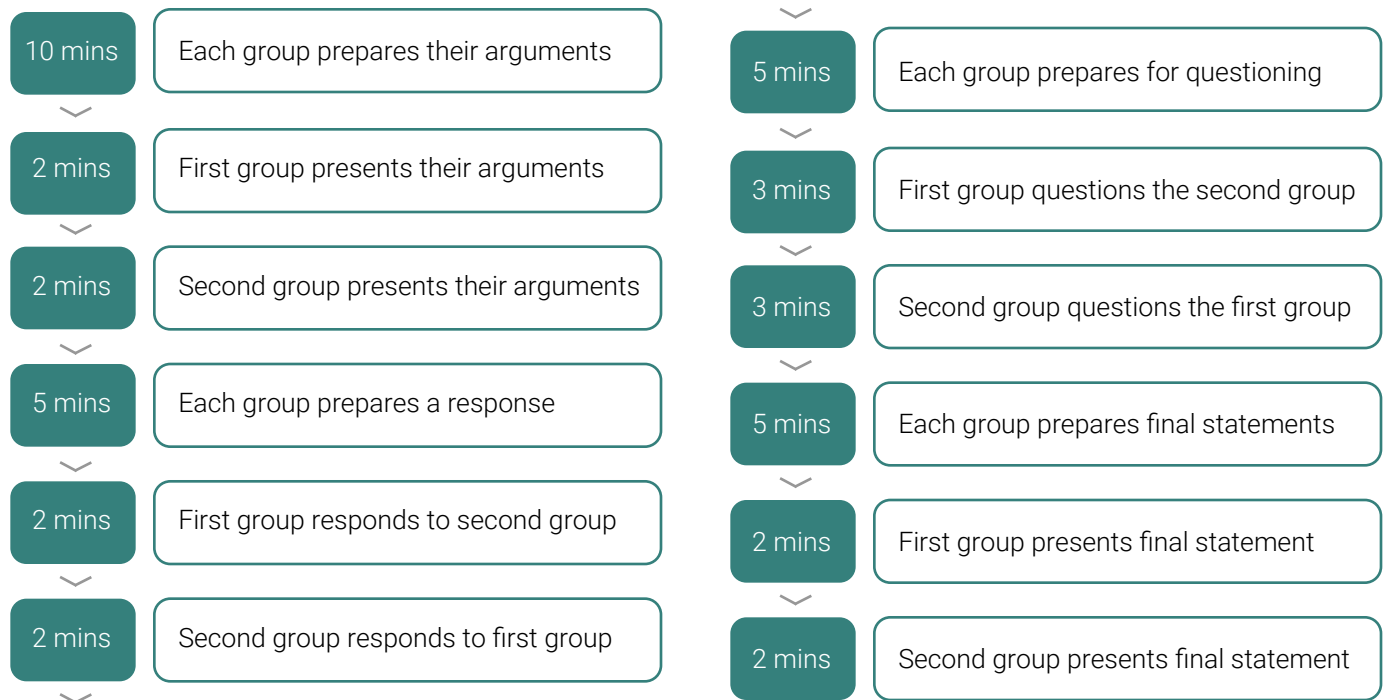
Have students read through the arguments for their side and find facts that support them. Facts can be found in the previous Front Row articles students have read as well as through other resources.

Structure the groups to fit your classroom: you can have 2 groups for the entire class to participate in the same debate, or have smaller groups and multiple debates going on at once!

SHOULD THE U.S. BE A SEPARATE COUNTRY?

Debate guidelines:

Flip a coin to see which side will present first. Then, follow the structure laid out below. Remember to use facts in your arguments!



Research facts in Front Row articles as well as using outside resources to support the claims below:

Yes

We should not be taxed without having someone represent us in the British government. This is a right all British citizens have.

The British have taken away colonial governments which causes confusion and takes away our ability to have order.

Britain is mostly interested in making money from us, and it does not have our best interests in mind.

We are required by law to house British soldiers, and this violates our rights to our own property.

The colonies are restricted to trading with only the British, which means we can not trade with other countries that could be better for us.

No

Britain has the biggest army in the world, and we have no real army. How can we expect to win against them?

We have beneficial trade relationships with the British, and if we become our own country, it could hurt our economy.

Britain spent a lot of money to protect us in the French and Indian War, and we should be willing to help pay for it.

Fighting against Britain is like a Civil War. Many of our friends and family live in Britain.

The colonies are small and very new. Not having Britain to protect us means we are vulnerable to attacks by Native Americans and other countries.

SHOULD THE U.S. BE A SEPARATE COUNTRY?

Which facts will support your side?

How can you respond to the other side's opening arguments?

What questions can you ask the other side to make them reconsider their stance?

What do you think the other side will ask you?