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**Portillo's Italian beef sandwich**  
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## THE GREAT DEBATE

# To dip or not to dip, that is the question

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The setup: Last week, RedEye staffers debated food. We pitted thin crust vs. deep dish along with pop vs. soda, ketchup vs. mustard and more. We know what we like here at RedEye, but we wanted to open the floor to two RedEye readers for their thoughts. So we asked: What's the right way to eat an Italian beef? Here's what Matt Stratton and Paul Lee had to say about our Chicago food debate.

### Go dipped or go home

Matt Stratton, 34, Lisle  
(formerly of Lakeview)

The first reason to get your beef dipped: to remove any question of the freshness of the bread. You can never be sure how fresh those torpedo rolls might be but even if the roll is slightly stale, a quick juice bath will freshen it right up. I also believe that the deliciousness should extend throughout the entire sandwich experience—every single bite should burst with explosive beefy wonder. Without dipping, you run the risk of a few dry bites. This is unacceptable.

### For the love of beef, don't dip

Paul Lee, Chicago, 35, Loop

The perfect Italian beef—the food of my youth, the bane of my workout regimen. Thinly sliced, seasoned, tender and lean. Complemented with your choice of giardiniera and/or sweet peppers. However, it should NEVER be dipped. The focus of the sandwich should be on the beef and the juice the beef retains. Dipping the sandwich is offensive (not to mention the fact that the bread falling apart and the beef falling through makes for a horrible dining experience).



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