



## Knowledge: Practice Activity



### Goal:

This activity will allow youth to practice their ability to research a specific topic in a group setting and argue for or against it. They will be required to go through the process of deciding what information will best make their case, what is accurate, inaccurate, and most relevant. Students must then relay this information to the rest of the class.

### Materials:

- Access to books or computers for research
- Topic strips (See below)

### Instructions:

1. Break students up into groups of 4-6 (there must be an even number of groups)
2. Choose topics for your groups from below (# of topics should equal half the # of groups)
3. Fold a "pro" and "con" strip for each topic and let groups choose
4. Explain to groups that they must research their topics either for (pro) or against (con)
5. Give students ample time for research
6. Ask students to present their findings to the rest of the class
  - a. Choose an amount of time (suggested of 5 minutes or less)
7. Note: You may turn this into an actual debate by giving groups time for rebuttals. This should be decided prior to giving instructions so that groups may prepare counter arguments.

### Things to point out:

- Often information is simply offered to us to learn. This activity that groups search for information that would be helpful to their case. How did groups decide what to look for?
- How did groups delegate the work?
- Point out the process of gathering information, evaluating it, and then making sense of it with regards to the perspective they had to take
- Ask them how they determined what and how to share the information they learned
- Did they think about using different types of information? How could that have enhanced their argument?
- If time permits, discuss difficulties in finding the information they wanted to