

Structured Academic Controversy: Student Expectations and Evaluation

Planning

You are expected to:

Understand information in articles concerning the topic of racial profiling. With a partner, select information that:

- Defines racial profiling.
- Explains where and how it exists.

Evaluate whether you think it is an effective law enforcement practice. Find arguments on both sides of this question. Be sure to find support for your arguments.

With a partner, plan how to share the responsibility for supporting the position assigned.

Speaking

You are expected to:

Clearly describe the most important information from readings so that others accurately understand the positions you present.

Use evidence appropriately to support your positions.

Clarify your position and ideas while avoiding a debate format.

Listening

You are expected to:

Ask relevant questions about ideas that are presented. Don't be argumentative.

Demonstrate your ability to listen by paraphrasing what you understood others to say.

Developing a Deeper Understanding of a Controversy

You are expected to:

Explain the issue from at least two points of view.

Consider who would hold a particular view and why.

Articulate a consensus position that reflects the complexity of the issue.

Source: Jo Ellen Ambrose, social studies teacher, Champlin Park High School, Champlin, Minnesota