

Formulating a strong argument: Discussion Section group exercise

Feb. 22, 2012

Instructions:

The section will be divided into two groups. I will assign to one of the groups the 'affirmative'/'YES' position, and the other the 'negative' position. Each group will spend 10 minutes discussing and sketching out an argument. Then each group will present their argument briefly, which I'll put up on the board in sketch-outline. We'll spend the remainder of the half-hour discussing each argument. Then we'll move on to prompt #2 and do the same thing, with the groups now switching roles.

Prompt #1:

Scientists have created a simple, cheap pill that, if taken in conjunction with anabolic steroids, safely eliminates the negative health effects of the steroids. In light of this breakthrough, should the ban on anabolic steroid use in sport be lifted?

Prompt #2

Charles Krauthammer has argued: "*Research cloning is an open door to reproductive cloning. Banning the production of cloned babies while permitting the production of cloned embryos makes no sense.*" Do you agree with this statement?