

CHAPTER 4	Scientific Debate Organizer	BLM 4.2.9
HANDOUT		

What to Do

As a class, arrange one or more debates on topics that have a relationship to science. You may want to choose one of the resolutions below or create your own resolution on a current topic of interest. For each resolution, four students will prepare to present their views, two for the resolution and two against. Use this organizer to help you prepare your points and the support for them. You should also prepare strategies for countering the points that the opposing speakers might make.

Appoint a student judge or panel of judges who will assess each debate and declare a winning side. The judge should declare as the winner the side that made and supported more points and was best able to argue against the points raised by their opponents. The class may wish to create an evaluation sheet with defined criteria, to assist the judges in their decision.

Suggested Resolutions

- Be it resolved that the scientific method is the only way to establish the facts about anything.
- Be it resolved that in order to reduce global warming, only four-cylinder private vehicles be allowed in Alberta.
- Be it resolved that in order to preserve biodiversity, all organisms should have the legal right of protection.

Topic

Resolution

Team Members

Side For the resolution or against the resolution

Speakers for the resolution

Speaker 1 _____

Speaker 2 _____

Speakers against the resolution

Speaker 1 _____

Speaker 2 _____

DATE:

NAME:

CLASS:

CHAPTER 4

HANDOUT

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BLM 4.2.9

Order of Points (Usually speakers start with a weaker point and continue with a stronger point. They usually end with the strongest point.)

Our points	Support for each point
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

DATE:

NAME:

CLASS:

CHAPTER 4
HANDOUT

Scientific Debate Organizer

BLM 4.2.9

Points the Opposing Side May Make

If they use these points ...	We can counter with ...
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	