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Goals:

- To teach debaters how to brainstorm complex topics.
- To teach them how to select and organize their best arguments.
- To allow debaters to learn from the topics other debaters are working on.
- To help them find support for their arguments.
- Debaters will have developed a basic understanding of every topic you deal with in this session.
- Help debaters discover good arguments to use on a variety of topics.

Procedure:

Phase One: Build Cases

1. Organize debaters into pairs: one debater is the proposition and the other the opposition. Give each pair a topic and allow them 10 minutes to think of their best three arguments. Have each proposition present her ideas (not as a speech, but in a discussion) for five minutes, including: definitions (if needed), model or plan for action (if needed), two arguments for a first speech, and a third argument for a second speech, which would be appropriate in the WUDC format (the world's most popular). Then have opposition do the same. Even if you are preparing for other formats, three major arguments are good for an exercise like this.

2. Make sure everyone is taking notes about all topics. Comment on the presentations and make concrete suggestions for improvement. You can allow a very debaters to make comments, but don't spend too much time on each topic so everyone has a chance to present his arguments.

Phase Two: Better Cases

1. Give debaters 5 minutes to make adjustments, and then present their basic ideas again, BUT now ask them to include examples and other forms of support they would use.

2. After each presentation, have debaters suggest other examples or forms of support they might have used.

Phase Three: Beauty Contest

If you have time:

1. Nominate cases from two pairs of debaters.
2. Have debaters argue in 1-minute speeches why one is better than the other.