

## *Should Homework Be Banned?*

### **Lesson plan for using arguments to persuade others**

**Suggested length:** 1-2 class periods (45-55 minutes each)

**Lesson components:**

- Opener (5 minutes)
- Activity
  - Part A: Explore and contribute to the Kialo discussion (partial period)
  - Part B: Persuade group members (1 class period)
- Closer and filling out Exit Ticket (15 minutes)

**Assessment**

Students will be assessed on their participation in the discussion and the completion of an exit ticket.

#### **Opener (5 minutes)**

1. Spark student interest by posing one or both of the following questions. Encourage students to share their answers with the whole class.
  - a. What is the purpose of homework?
  - b. What is your earliest memory of doing homework?

#### **Activity**

**Part A:** Explore the Kialo discussion (**partial class period**)

1. Have students independently explore the discussion.
2. Once students are finished, ask those who are in favor of banning homework to go to one side of the room and those who are against it to move to the opposite side of the room

**Part B: Contribute to discussion & persuade classmates (1 class period)**

1. Divide students into groups of 4-5 students. Ensure that there is a diversity of opinions in each group.

**TIP:** If there is an uneven number of students for and against the thesis, you may assign some students to argue for a particular side.

2. Assign each group their own clone of the Kialo discussion. Direct each student to add 3-4 claims to the discussion with examples from their own experience. For example, under the claim, "Homework gives students the opportunity to gain independence," students can add a con claim such as "Sometimes homework is frustrating, especially when I get stuck."

**TIP:** In the Kialo discussion, there is a default [discussion task](#) to add 3 claims. You can change this in the "Tasks" tab of the Discussion Settings.

3. Direct students to take turns sharing their conclusions with the group and trying to convince other group members.

### **Closer and filling out the Exit Ticket (15 minutes)**

1. Once more, ask the students to go to one side of the room if they agree with banning homework and to the other side if they are against it.
2. Discuss with the class: "Has anybody switched sides? If so, why?"
3. Have students fill out the Exit Ticket individually before they leave class.