

What is the difference between a discussion, a debate, and a deliberation in the classroom?

Discussion	Debate	Deliberation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks facts (Tends to be based on opinions rather than facts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ownership of and defending one position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research is more focused on the essential question without stifling broad connections across time or subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outcome isn't always necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implies winners and losers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering all the options by weighing the pros and cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can lead to many tangents and deviations from the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't allow for the consideration of multiple topics and/or influencing agents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting various viewpoints in an organized manner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of the Teacher: Facilitator or Leader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of the Teacher: Moderator/Monitor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of the Teacher: Facilitator

All three strategies have merits, but when it comes to dealing with multiple viewpoints it is best to use the deliberation process in the classroom in order to

- Eliminate chaos
- Be fair and unbiased
- Emphasize good critical thinking skills
- Emphasize good research skills
- Address content standards in a meaningful way
- Demonstrate the importance of considering all viewpoints (keeping an open mind)
- Empower students to make a difference
- Give students ownership
- Provide students with a framework for dealing with future issues and decision-making
- Provide relevancy for students by personalizing the issue

