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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Debate</th>
<th>Deliberation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Lacks facts (Tends to be based on opinions rather than facts)</td>
<td>• Ownership of and defending one position</td>
<td>• Research is more focused on the essential question without stifling broad connections across time or subjects</td>
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<td>• An outcome isn’t always necessary</td>
<td>• Implies winners and losers</td>
<td>• Considering all the options by weighing the pros and cons</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Can lead to many tangents and deviations from the topic</td>
<td>• Doesn’t allow for the consideration of multiple topics and/or influencing agents</td>
<td>• Presenting various viewpoints in an organized manner</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Role of the Teacher: Facilitator or Leader</td>
<td>• Role of the Teacher: Moderator/Monitor</td>
<td>• Role of the Teacher: Facilitator</td>
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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
Define
- Teachers identify possible issues/options and reference academic standards.
- Students (with teacher assistance) generate essential questions or turning points.
- Students (with teacher assistance) generate multiple viewpoints.

Identify
- Students identify core values.
- Students may maintain or change core values after experiencing the cycle.

Deliberation Process

Investigate
- Students research content.
- Students gain background information on essential questions and share this with each other.

Deliberate
- Students weigh multiple viewpoints.
- Students deliberate towards a possible class solution.

Outcome
- As a class or as individuals, students initiate a civic response.

Reflect
- Based on his/her unique perspective, and classroom deliberation, each student reaches a position.

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