



## **Constructive Controversy**

This technique promotes cooperative learning and critical thinking in group settings. The process involves structured debates on controversial topics to encourage group members to explore opposing viewpoints and arrive at a more comprehensive understanding.

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## **CONSTRUCTIVE CONTROVERSY**

## **Summary**

It's crucial for the facilitator to create a positive and respectful environment throughout the constructive controversy procedure, ensuring that all participants feel heard and valued. The focus should be on fostering critical thinking, cooperation, and open-mindedness rather than promoting confrontation or hostility. Additionally, it's essential to tailor the procedure's time frames and steps to suit the specific context and participants' needs.

## **Procedure**

- Divide the participants into groups and provide a prompt on a topic that is relevant and thought-provoking, allowing for diverging viewpoints.
- Give each group time to research and prepare an argument on one polarizing side of their topic at a time. To start, everyone should prepare a pro argument. They should provide credible evidence in support of their argument.
- 3. Have each group present their pro argument. It may be necessary to set a time limit for presenting their case.
- 4. Now switch sides. Everyone will prepare a con argument with credible evidence to support their reasoning.
- 5. Have each group present their con argument.
- Next, provide each group time to synthesize both sides. They should prepare a statement that finds common ground or a point of balance between all of the perspectives they have heard and then share it with the whole class.
- 7. Finally, have students individually reflect on how this process affected their understanding of the topic.

Johnson, D. W., & Johnson, R. T. (2009). Energizing learning: The instructional power of conflict. Educational Researcher, 38(1), 37–51.