

## Discussion Activity

Directions: Set participation expectations (pluralism and authenticity). Display a debatable topic (“social media endangers democracy,” for example). Note that there are at least 5 possible positions towards this topic: strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree. All participants have 10 minutes to craft their best argument for the position they agree with. Once the 10 minute preparation period has ended, the facilitator asks someone from each of the 5 positions to share their ideas.

There should be 5 speeches in total. Each speech is 3 minutes long. Then, for the next 3 minutes, other people who shared that speaker’s position can expand on the speech that was just given.

Order:

1. Strongly agree speech (3 minutes)  
Expansion (3 minutes)
2. Agree speech (3 minutes)  
Expansion (3 minutes)
3. Neutral speech (3 minutes)  
Expansion (3 minutes)
4. Disagree speech (3 minutes)  
Expansion (3 minutes)
5. Strongly disagree speech (3 minutes)  
Expansion (3 minutes)

In the discussion period following the speeches, should be asked to reflect on (at least) three considerations:

- a. The argument that made me think the hardest was...
- b. The biggest takeaway from this discussion is...
- c. What workable solutions draw your attention?