

Handout A: Civil Rights and Economic Freedom Student Packet

What is Structured Academic Controversy?

In Structured Academic Controversy, like a debate, you present and advocate an assigned position, listen to an opposing argument, and then offer a rebuttal. However, in Structured Academic Controversy, you then reverse perspectives and argue the other side. In this way, you are forced to consider both sides of an issue. You then step outside of your assigned positions and work with your teammates to **create a consensus statement to which everyone can agree.**

How does it work?

Suggested time limit	Instructions
20 minutes	1. Alone: Read and annotate Source A and B. Look for how each author addresses the central question of industrial progress and how it has affected mankind. Write down the central argument of each author in the graphic organizer.
Break into small groups and assign teams.	
10–15 minutes	2. Teams brainstorm reasons to support the side they have been assigned and prepare arguments for their position. USE THE TEXT to build your argument.
4 minutes (2 and 2)	3. Each team has 2 minutes to state their views and arguments without interruption from the opposing team. Take notes when the other team presents their position. Team A begins. Only Team A may speak. Team B listens and takes notes. If Team A finishes before time is called, Team B may ask for clarifying questions until Team B is given the signal to begin.
1 minute	4. Step out of the debate format and ask any clarifying questions.
5 minutes	5. SWITCH SIDES. Now Team A must argue Team B's position and vice versa. Each team prepares arguments for their new position. Teams can use arguments already advanced by the other side but should try to strengthen such arguments by adding to them. Teams can also develop new arguments.
4 minutes (2 and 2)	6. Each team has 2 minutes to state their views and arguments without interruption from the opposing team. Take notes when the other team presents their position. Team A begins. ONLY TEAM A MAY SPEAK. Team B listens and takes notes. If team A finishes before time is called, Team B may ask for clarifying questions until Team B is given the signal to begin.
1 minute	7. Step out of the debate format and ask any clarifying questions.
10–15 minutes	8. Step out of assigned positions. Share your own opinions. Try to reach a CONSENSUS position on the issues that is acceptable to both teams and prepare to share your consensus statement(s) with the class.
	9. Class debrief. Each team will share their consensus statements.

Guidelines

- I am critical of ideas, not people. I challenge and refute the ideas of the opposing pair, but I do not indicate that I personally reject them.
- I focus on coming to the best decision possible, not winning (i.e., we are all winners here. This isn't a competition).
- I encourage everyone to participate and master all relevant information.
- I listen to everyone's ideas, even if I do not agree.
- I ask for clarification if I am confused or something is unclear.
- I try to understand both sides of the issue.

Essential Question:

What is the best method for achieving equality and integration into American society?

Source A: Booker T. Washington. Speech before the Atlanta Cotton States and International Exposition, 1895	Source B: W. E. B. Du Bois, Niagara Movement Speech, 1905
Central argument:	Central argument:
Major points:	Major points:
Consensus statement:	