

SNAP DEBATE

For this exercise, divide the room into two sections. Read each of the following statements one at a time. Assign one side of the room to be “for” the statement and the other side of the room to be “against” the statement. Ask each side to make comments supporting their position. Tell them they do not necessarily have to believe the comments they make and they are free to make outrageous comments. Have them make comments by raising their hand and waiting until the facilitator calls on them. After a few comments from each side, ask them to change arguments.

This is called a “snap” debate because the comments are to be fired off quickly; allowing participants to get into the spirit and heat of the debate. Start with the example before moving into the actual statements. Following the exercise take time to discuss the participant’s true feelings about these issues and how it felt to be making arguments that they did not necessarily believe themselves.

Example A car is better than an SUV.

1. An HIV-positive athlete should not be allowed to participate in contact sports such as soccer, basketball, or hockey.
2. People living with HIV or AIDS should be allowed to work in restaurants and prepare food.
3. It should be a crime for anyone infected with HIV to have sexual intercourse without telling his/her sexual partner that he/she is HIV positive.



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Located in Mahomet, Ill., ELI is a community-based nonprofit organization emphasizing life skills for emerging youth leaders in third world countries. ELI has been formed by Paul and Virginia who have been working with youth in United States and abroad for more than 30 years. For further information on ELI, please call (217) 377-9444.