



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Free-for-all Debate: About TikTok

*An activity of "TikTok videos are a hit, but..."*

The popular app TikTok is making the news. To understand the global conversation about it, read "**TikTok videos are a hit, but governments are trying to discipline the popular app**" (page 1 & 28, *What's Up* March 2023). Clearly, there are many sides to the dilemma of whether TikTok should be used or not. What do you think?

Have a free-for-all debate in your class to help you construct your own understanding of using apps like TikTok. Unlike traditional debates which have only four speakers per team, this free-for-all format allows for any number of speakers from each side.

### THE MOTION

"The risks outweigh the benefits for children using TikTok."

### PREPARE FOR THE DEBATE

1. Split your class into two halves: one side **for the motion**, and the other side **against the motion**. You can either draw lots or sign up for the side you prefer on a first-come-first-served basis.

Note: If you are opposing the motion, you have a choice. You can either say that the benefits outweigh the risks or that the benefits and risks balance out each other.

2. As a team, brainstorm about the motion and your team's stance. Jot down key points. You may surf the internet to get more information. Don't write full sentences. Instead, referring to only words and phrases will give you the flexibility to be spontaneous and responsive to your opponents.

### CONDUCT THE DEBATE

3. Get ready for the debate by having each team's members seated together, facing the other team. Each team selects a captain. During the debate, each captain decides who gets to speak from his or her team and in which order. The **captains** double up as timekeepers.
4. Every speaker gets only five minutes. The team for the motion starts and ends the debate. During a team's turn, only one speaker from that team gets to speak. When you want to speak, put up your hand and wait for your captain to pick you. The teams take turns for as many rounds as your class has time for.
5. If you wish to select winners, then the whole class votes for the three best speakers from each side. Otherwise, your class may prefer to enjoy the debate without worrying about winning (or losing). That way, everyone remains relaxed and focused on the arguments being voiced.