

The Great Fidget Spinner Debate



Created by [Nicole Beardsley](#); inspired by [Amy Davis](#) and [Denis Sheeran](#).

Teachers: Feel free to use this HyperDoc with your class!

Go to File>Make a Copy to have your own editable version
(please do NOT click the “request access” button)

Delete all bright green help text before sharing with your students

Engage

Turn to your partner and discuss:

Do you have a fidget spinner? If so, why do you like it? If not, why don't you have one?

Explore

What are some pros and cons of fidget spinners in the classroom that you can think of?

Turn and talk to your partner and fill in at least one idea in the table below:
(Reminder: boxes will grow as you type. It's okay. No need to panic)

Pros of fidget spinners in the classroom:	Cons of fidget spinners in the classroom	Brainstorm ways we turn each of these “Cons” into more positive “Pros”

Explain



Click on the picture to watch the video.

Apply


Use what you learned in the video to answer the questions below. (Reminder: boxes will grow as you type. It's okay. No need to panic)	
Q1: Fidget spinners were originally invented to help kids with ADHD and Autism. Why do you think fidget spinners would be helpful for those kids?	A1:
Q2: Connor (the kid in the video) got his fidget spinner after seeing kids at school with them. He admits he knows fidget spinners are just a craze that won't be around for long. Why do you think crazes like fidget spinners, slime, kendamas, rainbow looms, etc. catch on get so popular with kids? What crazes of the past were you obsessed with?	A2:
Q3: People who argue that fidget spinners should not be banned in school say they help kids to stay focused, even those who don't have ADHD or Autism. In your opinion, are fidget spinners being used by kids as a tool to help them focus, or as a toy that's a distraction from schoolwork?	A3:
Q4: Teachers and school administrators are saying fidget spinners should be banned from school because they are distracting students from doing their work and, in some cases, are a safety hazard. Some people argue against this, saying schools should let kids be kids and find a way to embrace kids' interests and tie them in to their lessons somehow to make learning more engaging for kids. Which side of the argument are you on? Explain why you feel this way.	A4:

Share

Share your voice on this topic

Step 1: Read through your response to Q4 above to make sure it is thorough and complete. Practice reading it out loud and make sure it is not longer than **1 minute & 30 seconds**

Step 2: [Click here](#) to be taken to our FlipGrid topic. Click on the green "Add a response" square and then follow the directions from there to record, review, and submit your response.



Teachers: You will need to insert the link to your own class FlipGrid topic above.

Stop Here.



Your video will appear in the grid after it has been reviewed by your teacher.
Go on to other work while you wait.

Teachers: I included this moderating of the videos as my own preference. You can certainly delete this portion if you do not feel it’s necessary. I teach 6th graders, so I will definitely be reviewing their videos first. :)

Step 3: Once you have the go-ahead from your teacher, click here to go back to the FlipGrid topic. Watch at least 5 of your classmates’ videos.
If they made some good points in their video, click the “Like” button.



Reflect

(Reminder: boxes will grow as you type. It’s okay. No need to panic)

Teachers: this portion can also be turned into a Google Form if you choose.

Q1:Find a video you “Liked” in the activity above. What did that person say that made you “Like” their video?	Name of person whose video I watched:
Q2: Find a video of someone whose opinion on this topic is different than yours. What did they say in their video that you disagree with? What response would you give to them?	Name of person whose video I watched:
Q3: How do you feel about this debate after watching your classmates’ responses? Do you have any new thoughts after watching your classmates’ videos? Did anybody make a point you hadn’t thought of? Has your thinking changed at all? Explain.	

Extend:

Plead your case to the principal. Do some additional research on the internet to support your argument and put together a Slides presentation and/or a screencast video. Remember to include your sources! Share it with your teacher when you’re finished.

Teachers: I’ve included the activities below if you wish to include them into your HyperDoc activity as well to make it a little more reading focused. I do not recommend using these as your Extension activities though.

Additional Reading

[Click here](#) to read the article “Fidget toys: Effective tools or classroom distraction?”
Use the article to fill in the information below:

3 quotes from this article in favor of allowing fidget spinners in the classroom	3 quotes from this article in favor of banning fidget spinners in the classroom

[Click here](#) to read the article about the creator of the original spinner.
Use the article to answer the questions below:

What is the problem Catherine Hettinger is facing?
How does Catherine Hettinger feel about this? Use a quote from the article to support your answer
Would you respond the same or differently if you were in Catherine Hettinger’s shoes? Explain.