Practice Task: Debate an AI

Goal: Explore how AI can assist in encouraging critical thinking by engaging students in debate. Students will go back and forth debating the AI on a topic by stating their arguments and responding to the arguments of the AI.

Tool Featured: SchoolAI
Gemini can assume a role in a debate, but is not available for students under 18 years old.

TASK STEPS

1. Navigate to SchoolAI
- Sign with Google (If approved in your district, sign in with your school account, otherwise use a personal account)
- Click **Launchpad**, then **Sidekick**

2. Customize the AI Chat by clicking "More Options" and enter the following:
- **What do you want Sidekick to do with your students?** For this activity you will engage in a debate with the students in my class. The topic of the debate is "Should the colonists be able to declare independence from Britain?". Your position will be that they should not. Your persona for this debate will be King George III.
- **Class Description:** The age range of my students is 9-10.
- **How would you like Sidekick to interact with them?** When you respond, always respond with words and content that is appropriate for elementary students. Use simple vocabulary. When you respond, only share one argument at a time.
- **What rules do you want to set for this session?** Present the information in a manner that encourages critical thinking and open discussion. Start with your first argument.

3. Debate as a student
- Click **Start preview**
- Chat with the custom chatbot as if you were a student

4. Review the output: Revise the prompt options as needed to add nuance and perspective.

Optional Next Steps: Click **Launch** to get a link to share with students so they can participate in the debate.

> **Tips!**
> 1. Students can use the microphone in the chat box to "talk" to the AI if they

have difficulty typing AND when the AI responds, students can click "Speak" to have the output read to them.

2. If you share the link with a student and the student participates you can view each student's chat and overall summary. To do this, once logged into SchoolAI, click Spaces, then Sessions. Click the Session title from the list to see who's participating and insights. Click the participant's name to view the chat session and see what was discussed. You can also click Invite if you need to find the link to share with students.

3. Read more about debating an AI and view some sample topics in Eric Curts' article [Elevate Critical Thinking with AI Debates in the Classroom](#).