

Critical Thinking in the Age of AI



Le "Artificial Intelligence ought to serve our best human potential and our highest aspirations, not compete with them." Pope Francis

Critical Thinking - Mini Lesson/Activation Activity

Debate an A.I.

Estimated time for mini-lesson: one to two class periods

Dimension(s) of Critical Thinking or Strategy will be activated in this mini-lesson:

[Critical Thinking - Progression Document](#)

- ☒ Evaluating information and arguments
- ☒ Making connections and identifying patterns
- ☒ Meaningful knowledge construction
- ☒ Experimenting, reflecting and taking action on ideas in the real world
- ☒ Using technology for learning

FIRST - Take Five Minutes to review key words from the [Progression Document](#) of this Anchor Chart (to be created) on Critical Thinking. Better yet, have the students complete the Progression Document.

Describe the activity here:

For this activity, your class will debate the AI on a topic.

- You will choose the topic, the AI's persona, the AI's position on the topic, and who goes first.
- Your class will then go back and forth debating the AI on the topic by stating their arguments and/or responding to the arguments of the AI.
- This activity is an excellent way to foster critical thinking skills and dive deeper into subject-specific content.

Possible curriculum connections: any subject area and grade level 7-12 where you want to debate a topic

What materials will students need?

- Chromebook (one per group, if completed in a pair or small group)
- Teacher - LCD projector and audio (if using A.I. that speaks directly to you).
- [Debate an A.I. Activity Instruction document](#)

Link any media necessary for the mini-lesson:

- [Debate an A.I. Activity Instruction document](#)

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What is the teacher doing?

Before task, teachers will decide:

- the A.I. to be used with the students (test out BEFORE doing this with the students);
- the debate topic choice
- whether the A.I. will be for or opposed to the side of the students (see [Debate on A.I. Activity Instruction document](#))
- what prompt template do they want to use for the activity

During task -

- The teacher will be circling around the groups as they are working helping to facilitate individual or small group discussions and answer questions, if needed.

What are the students doing?

- Students will debate the chosen debate topic with the A.I.
- Students can debate as a whole class, in a small group, or individually
- For an easier experience, have the AI take the side most different from the class opinion, allowing students to argue their actual beliefs. For enhanced critical thinking, have the AI adopt the side that the class likely agrees with, prompting students to consider and argue against their usual viewpoints.
- During the debate be sure to give time to the students to discuss and develop their response to the AI's arguments. This can be done in small groups or as a whole class discussion. This is a great time to encourage critical thinking and communication among the students.
- Go as many rounds as you wish for the debate before ending.

AI connection

You will use A.I. directly throughout this whole activity.

Acknowledgements: this lesson was adapted from Eric Curts from his blog [Control Alt Achieve](#).