





LISTENING	Debate	GRADE BAND: 6-12
TASK	Academic Debate	
<p>LISTEN</p> 	 <p>Teacher: Today, two students will present arguments for and against allowing calculators on math tests. The first to speak is Liz.</p> <p>Liz: I think all student should be allowed to use calculators on their math tests because it shows that you know how to do the math and lets you concentrate on the hard part and not worry about easy things like adding and subtracting. Plus, these days everyone has a calculator in their pocket, on their phone, so it is important to know how to use it.</p> <p>Teacher: Thank you. Now, we will hear from Eric.</p> <p>Eric: I think no students should be allowed to use calculators on their math tests because they need to show that they can do the math, even the simple stuff, in their head. This way, if they get a job with money or something they can do it in their head quickly and not give back the wrong change.</p>	
<p>TEACH</p> 	<p>Read the text to the student without letting them see the text. You may read it to them more than once. Ask the student each of the questions that follow.</p>	
<p>SPEAK</p> 	<p>Listen to a recording or to someone read you the text. Do not look at the text when you answer the questions. Answer as many questions as you can.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Who speaks first?</p> <p>What are they debating?</p> <p>Who presents the argument against calculators?</p> <p>What evidence does Eric present about calculators?</p> <p>What evidence does Liz present about calculators?</p> <p>Which argument do you think is better? Why?</p>	

**TRY IT IF YOU
CAN**



1. Have students write another debate where Liz and Eric argue for and against a topic. These topics could be:
 - Being allowed to use cell phones in class
 - Wearing school uniforms
 - Being allowed to leave campus at lunch
 - Have the students brainstorm their own topic
 Write the debate using the same format above.
 Practice saying it to them and ask questions similar to the ones in the activity.
2. Listen to a newscast where two people debate a topic.
 What is the topic?
 What evidence do they present?
 Who seems most convincing?
3. Research the elements of a good debate. Does the debate listed in this activity have those elements? Explain.