

Civil Discourse



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“Opposing arguments are grounded in reason and evidence and they are put forward within strict guidelines for courtroom decorum. Each side tests the arguments of the other side, and a judge holds everyone to the same protocol and standards of appropriate behavior. Asking questions of each side is an integral part of the process.”

(uscourts.gov/education)

PA CORE STANDARDS

- “Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective.”
- “Evaluate how the speaker’s perspective, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric affect the credibility of an argument through the author’s stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone.”
- “Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions on grade-level topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.”

PA CORE STANDARDS

- “Create organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence; use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text to create cohesion and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims; provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.”

PUBLIC SPEAKING

- “Consistent debating of ideas in impromptu speaking and discussions on issues going on in society.”

Methods of Fostering Discourse in the Classroom

- **Movement-Based Strategies**
- **1 on 1 Rotating Discussions**
- **Full-class Debates - variety of methods**
- **Intentional Structures to Foster Active Listening**
- **Readings from varied perspectives (primary sources, opinion pieces, etc.) followed by class discussion in multiple formats**
- **Defend the Opposite View**



These strategies are used in many classes...

- **Social Studies**
- **ELA**
- **Math**
- **STEM**
- **Science**
- **Agriculture**
- **Wellness**

Propane

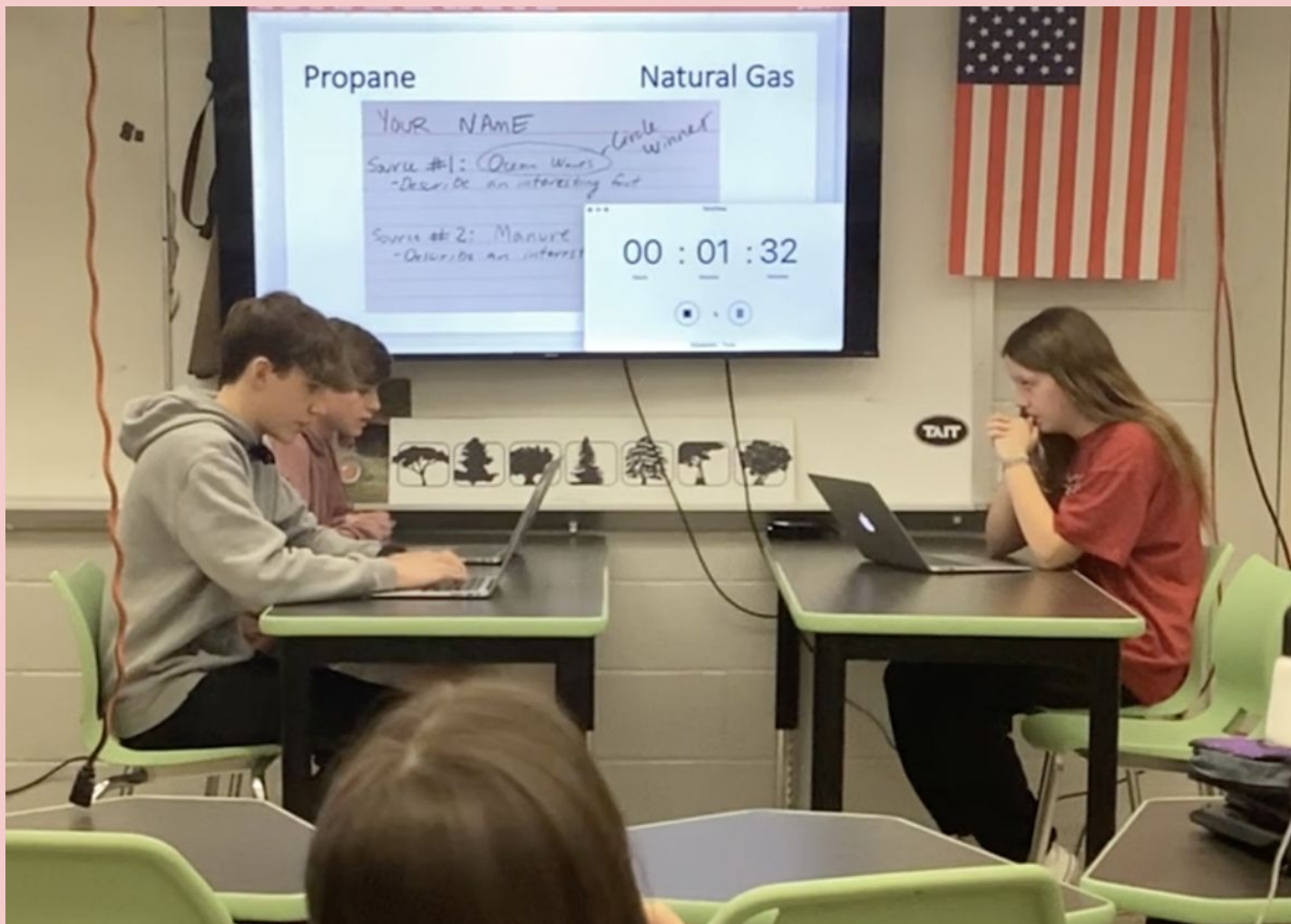
Natural Gas

YOUR NAME

Source #1: Ocean Waves *Circle winner*
- Describe an interesting fact

Source #2: Manure
- Describe an interest

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Ability to Adjust

"I will recognize and adapt to challenges"



Articulate in Public and Small Groups

"I will communicate and respect multiple perspectives"



"I will understand other people's life journey"



Illustration of a person helping another person up, with the word "Solidarity" written in large, red, cursive letters. Below the illustration, the text "Interpersonal Skills" is written in bold black font. Dashed lines connect this image to the "Articulate in Public and Small Groups" and "Solidarity" sections.