Scope debates are a fantastic way for students to practice evaluating an argument, identifying supporting evidence, and writing a well-crafted argument essay. And students love them!

## Step-By-Step Lesson Plan
For use with any Debate/Essay Kit in Scope

### Preparing to Read
Project the **Words and Definitions** handout and preview the vocabulary.

### Reading and Text Marking
- Read the article once as a class.
- On your whiteboard, model text marking as students mark their magazines: Use a red-colored pencil to underline details that support the “Yes” side of the debate.
- Have students work in groups to underline details that support the “No” side of the debate, this time with a blue-colored pencil.

### Discussing Author Bias
Have students discuss the following in their groups:
Does the writer show bias—that is, a preference for one side of the debate or the other? How do you know?

### Doing the Activity
Have students fill in the “Yes/No” chart in their magazines using the strongest details that they underlined in the text.

### Debating
Invite students to debate the topic at hand. Encourage them to use text evidence to support their opinions.

### Writing
- Have students complete the **Write an Argument Essay** activity sheet and write their essays.
- Students should revise their essays using the **Argument-Essay Checklist**.

**Common Core ELA Anchor Standards:**
R.1, R.2, R.6, R.8, W.1, W.5, SL.1, L.4, L.6

For more standards info, including TEKS, go to Scope Online.