

Mad Debates

Step 1: Hand out scraps of paper, 3 per student.

Step 2: On each scrap of paper, ask your students to write the **name of one object in the world** (car, potato, shoe, etc.)

Step 3: Collect in the paper and pair your students, or ask them to work in small groups.

Step 4: Nominate one student from each group to choose a scrap of paper from your pile. Board each group's choice.

Step 5: Write "**Which is the greatest benefit to humanity?**" at the top of your board.

Step 6: Randomly create oppositions (sweetcorn versus windows, or books versus lightbulbs, for example). Each group must now find arguments to show that their object is more beneficial to humankind than their opposition's.

Acknowledgement:

This idea comes from Friederike Klippel's excellent book, *Keep Talking*. I go into its staging in more detail here.