

Vampires vs. Zombies

Teacher's note: This activity engages critical reasoning, persuasive, and argumentation skills. During the exercise the students will compile, analyze, and champion for the supremacy of vampires or zombies. The class should be divided in half in order to debate. You will be the judge for this debate. The winner should demonstrate clear lines of logic as well as techniques discussed within the chapter.

Student Prompt: Today's activity is called the Vampires vs. Zombies Exercise and you will be holding a mock debate. With the class divided into two groups and with your assigned creature, you will need to do the following:

Steps:

Answer the question: "Which are better, vampire films or zombie films?"

First, discuss why your assigned creature has better films. Remember to think outside the box; not all zombie and vampire film are horror films. Think about reviews, top ten lists, box office numbers, etc. (5 minutes)

Next, think about the other side. Why is the other side worse? What is it that makes their films inferior? What will they say makes their films better? (5 minutes)

Then, create a list of your five best arguments and pick a representative to speak for the group. Your representative should be able to speak about each argument coherently for a minute for a total of five minutes of speaking time. You will also need to elect someone from your group to take notes as the other side speaks.

It is now time for the first part of the debate. Flip a coin to decide which side goes first and then present your five arguments. Note takers should write down the arguments presented by the opponent as well as each of the arguments' main points.

After both sides have presented, discuss within your group the cases presented. Then, compose a two-minute rebuttal and conclusion.

Finally, present your concluding arguments.