



EduTrend Contents

P4C · REASONS AND ARGUMENTS · PRIMARY

Reason Tug of War

Weighing reasons for and against along a rope

Ages 8–11

Level: Developing

45 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 02

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 02 · AT A GLANCE

Reason Tug of War

A rope is laid across the floor with “agree” at one end and “disagree” at the other. The statement is “Children should choose their own bedtime.” Pupils write reasons on cards and place them along the rope, with stronger reasons further from the middle. They move cards when someone argues well, then enquire into what makes some reasons stronger than others.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- generate reasons for and against;
- rank reasons by strength;
- justify placement;
- change views for reasons.

KEY WORDS

reason · strong · weak · for · against
· weigh

CURRICULUM LINKS

English: persuasive writing. PSHE: decision-making. Maths: ordering.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree, add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- A rope or tape
- Reason cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 02 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Lay out the rope and read the statement.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–18 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
18–40 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Are some reasons stronger than others?"</i>
40–45 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Move one card and convince the group your new placement is right.

ACTIVITY 02 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Weighing reasons visually helps pupils see that decisions involve balancing several considerations.

A reason can be true but not very important, or important but uncertain.

Common ideas to listen for

- “More reasons wins.” Strength matters more than number.
- “Personal reasons don’t count.” They may count for some decisions.
- “Strong reasons are loud ones.” They are well supported.

Adapting the activity

Support

Provide some reason cards.

Stretch

Find a reason that would change the whole tug of war.

WORKSHEET 1

Reasons

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

For and against.

Reasons

For	Strength 1–3	Against	Strength 1–3

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Can a weak reason still be true? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Reason Tug of War is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Reasons and Arguments programme (primary, level: developing). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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