

GUIDE

Construct Useful Disagreements Using The 3-Step Refutation

Adapted from [C3WP](#) and *Civil Discourse In The Classroom* by Kate Shuster

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Disagreements Never End

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**Conflict and disagreement
will never stop occurring.
They exist whenever
incompatible activities
occur.**

Since conflict will never cease to exist, we might as well learn how to disagree. Engaging in constructive disagreements is the only way to solve conflicts without violence and is necessary for a healthy democracy.

The fundamental principle of democracy is that people can freely share their opinions, knowledge, and experience and collectively act on a shared idea. The inability or unwillingness to disagree cripples this freedom.

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The 3-Step Refutation

Learning to disagree constructively involves several skills, but this basic method for opposing ideas is a great way to start. The 3-step refutation method helps us structure arguments without personal attacks or slurs.

Refutation

**the action of proving a
statement or theory to be
wrong or false.**

Step 1

Refute

Begin by acknowledging the other person's viewpoint or point out the limitations of their argument.

If it helps, start your comment with "They say..." or "some say..." or "@user4269 said..."

Otherwise, dive right in with your refutation like Hi-Road's response to No-Car80 on the next page.



New_General3939

Young boys being frustrated with young girls is totally normal and natural, and treating them like dangerous freaks for expressing those feelings is wrong.



No-Car803

Disagree.

Boys / young men should use that energy to LEARN what age-appropriate girls / young women want, rather than F***ING WHINING!



Hi-Road

Most grown adults don't have the capabilities to redirect their frustration like that. And the issue isn't that they need to invest extra energy into trying to attract women. They'll spend all that time and energy and then be frustrated when people don't fall into their lap. Building self confidence, values, and purpose OUTSIDE of chasing women is what they should be learning to do at an early age. Relationship stuff will develop as they mature. Basing your sense of self on attracting the opposite sex is begging for disaster. Also frustration \neq whining, you can't tell them to express frustrations and lash out at them when it's not exactly what you wanna hear - toxic stoicism.

02

Support

This is the “because” part of your counterargument. So give reasoning and evidence to support your refutation.



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Sea-Poppy

@No-Car803 There's a lot of non-constructive messaging that gets thrown at young guys.

Refute



because



Stuff like "you're a sexual predator unless proven otherwise" gets lobbed at kids. Boys get lectured on how bad they innately are and what NOT to do. But there is hardly any guidance on what you CAN and should do.

03

Extend

Extend the argument by considering or challenging another angle of the issue. This would allow you and others on the thread to explore it from multiple perspectives. You can use statements like,

"I understand that...on the other hand..."

"I see what you're saying, but I also think..."

"Although...may be true, it's also important to consider"



New_General3939

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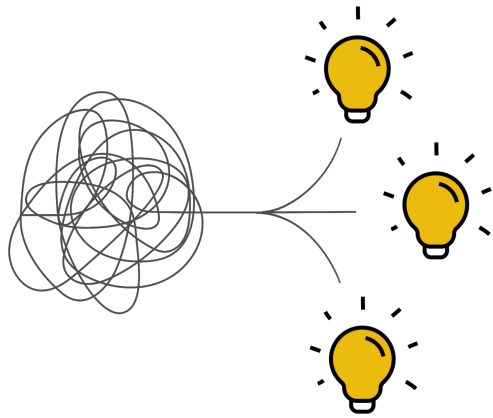
Stuff like "you're a sexual predator unless proven otherwise" gets lobbed at kids. Boys get lectured on how bad they innately are and what NOT to do. But there is hardly any guidance on what you CAN and should do.

Extend: On one hand, boys are harshly criticized about their behavior...on the other hand, there's no guidance on appropriate behaviors.

Refute

because

Constructive arguments are healthy; they build community as people work together to find a common understanding of the matter and develop innovative solutions.



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Civil disagreements are about exposing a variety of perspectives in order to draw the best conclusion.

Oftentimes, more than one conclusion.

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Thank You!

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