

Lesson Plan: The Great Debate

OBJECTIVE: Students will connect debate to persuasive essay writing, and learn a new strategy for persuasive essay pre-writing

TIME: 45 minutes (with optional 45 minute extension activity)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *Twilight*
- “The Great Debate” from *A New Dawn* [Caution: “The Great Debate” contains a few minor curse words, mild innuendo, and netspeak.]

INTRODUCTION: Persuasive essay writing is as much about the idea being argued *against* as it is the idea that’s being argued for. To write an essay that could actually persuade someone, it’s important to be aware of both sides of the argument. Think of your essay as a debate where one side just doesn’t get to talk!

ACTIVITY:

Read “The Great Debate” in class. Different students can read for the five different speakers, with an additional student reading the stage directions.

Discuss the two sides presented in the essay and their respective arguments, recording their points on a board or overhead projector. Brainstorm additional points for both sides.

Optional Homework: Use the points from one side or the other discussed in class to write a persuasive essay.

Optional Extension (45 minutes)

Split the class into groups and have them script their own debates on controversial subjects in the Twilight series, to be shared with the class.

- Would you rather be a vampire or a werewolf?
- (If the group has read more of the series) Is Edward or Jacob the better boyfriend for Bella?
- (If the group has read the full series) Was *Breaking Dawn* a good conclusion to the Twilight series?