

[Learn more about TechnoDebate](#)



A title slide introduces the topic of the debate.

Student collaborators create a debate using Google Slides or PowerPoint Online.

Choose a slide theme.

# Should bike lanes be added to city streets?

Student partners pick sides on the debate topic.

**PRO:** Sara Cyler  
**CON:** Dan Driver

Some slides are missing in this sample.

The PRO side introduces the resolution on the first slide.

The purpose of this debate is to determine if bike lanes should be added to city streets. There is no doubt that bike lanes should be added. They help to reduce air pollution, decrease traffic congestion, and increase cyclist safety.

Animated callout boxes express the opinion of one side of the debate.



Colored backgrounds differentiate the PRO side from the CON side.

A character symbolizes the speaker of one of the two viewpoints.





One of the reasons bike lanes should be added to cities is that this will help the environment. Cycling is an environmentally friendly mode of travel. The *Green Earth Group* states that vehicles contribute to air pollution by emitting carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons into our air. These toxins have caused various health issues such as cancer and respiratory problems. Therefore, cycling is an attractive option for travelling. I encourage everyone to start cycling. This will benefit the environment and our health. We need to get started right away adding bike lanes to our cities.

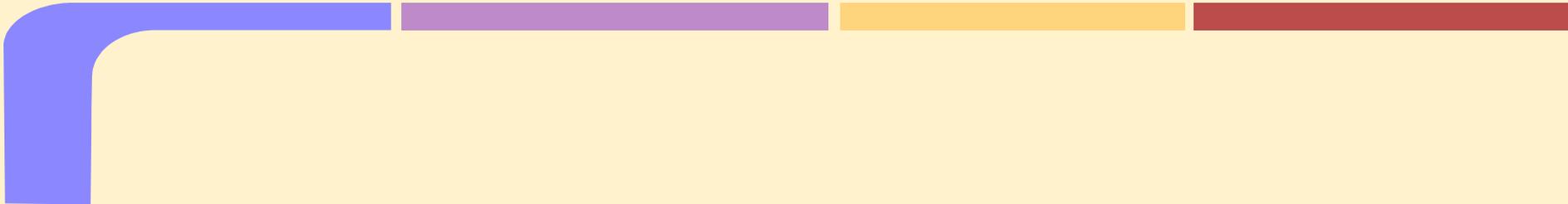
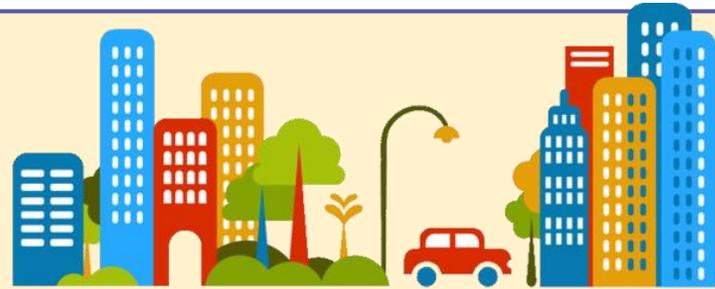
Each side creates 3 slides describing 3 persuasive arguments.



Clip art is added to illustrate the arguments.



Another reason the city should add bike lanes to city streets is they will reduce traffic on streets. Instead of commuting by car, people will ride their bikes. Studies in similar cities with a network of bike paths have found bike lanes increase the number of cyclists. For example in Cycle Town, the addition of bike lanes increased the number of trips by bike by 40%. This will happen in our city once bike lanes are added.



The resolution slide introduces the CON side of the debate.

Step-by-step instructions show students how to work simultaneously on the same file.

Bikes lanes on streets is an important issue for the people living in our city. It is my opinion that bike lanes should be not be added to city streets. They are too expensive, restrict traffic flow, and only help a few people living

Transitions are added to the presentation to spark interest and to separate the two viewpoints.



A different colored background distinguishes the CON side.

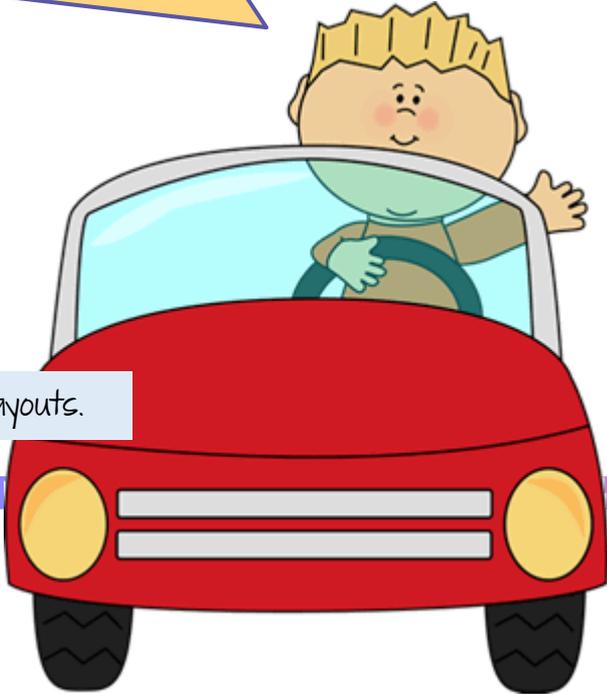
A different character graphically represents the CON side.



One of the main reasons not to add bike lanes to city streets is the high cost. The one mile bike lane along Cycle Street was \$800,000. It will cost another \$200,000 each year to maintain. This is too much money for a bike lane that is only a short distance. Imagine the costs for a network of bike lanes!

The CON side outlines  
3 supporting  
arguments on 3 slides.

Change slide layouts.



Text highlights debate arguments.

# Too Expensive!

It is important to consider another major problem with bike lanes on city streets. The bike lanes take away road space for cars. This causes delays at intersections and creates traffic congestion. People need to be able to drive through the city quickly and easily. For this reason, bike paths should not be added to city streets.



The point has been made that bike lanes on city streets do not help enough people. This argument ignores the fact that a car is a luxury many parents cannot afford. In our city, one quarter of children and youth live in poverty. Bike lanes offer families living in poverty a means to get to work and school. The bike lanes will improve the lives of many people living in our city.

Students build logical reasoning as they counter-argue the opponent's viewpoint.

Each side may rebut the weakest point of the opponent.



My opponent has stated that bike lanes will increase the number of cyclists. Since more people will be riding bikes, there will be less cars on the streets, which will reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. This argument ignores an important factor - weather! In our city, the winter months have lots of snow and freezing temperatures. Very few people are going to ride their bikes in this type of weather. Our city does not have the climate that encourages a daily commute to school and work using bikes.



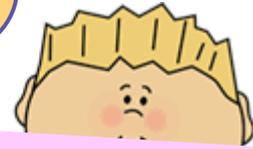


Many arguments have been presented for and against bike lanes. What must remain at the forefront of this debate is how important bike lanes are to the people living in this city. Bike lanes on city streets improve safety for cyclists which makes cycling a more attractive commuting option. When more people ride their bikes instead of drive cars, traffic congestion decreases and harmful emissions that create air pollution are reduced. In summary, bike lanes are environmentally friendly, improve the health of citizens, and increase traffic flow. Say “yes” to bike lanes on our city streets!

PRO and CON sides  
of the debate each  
finish with a  
summary statement.



It is difficult to ignore the problems bike lanes on our city streets will create. The opposition has tried to convince you that bike lanes will increase the amount of cyclists and reduce the amount of drivers on streets. This won't happen! Our climate does not support year-round commuting by bike. To build expensive bike lanes, that create traffic congestion and benefit only a few people in the city does not make financial sense. I am sure you will agree, bike lanes on city streets are a waste of money.



The audience is invited to share the debate. They use the Comments feature to cross-examine either viewpoint.

A debate is a great way to integrate technology.  
Teach your students how to make persuasive arguments.  
Build critical thinking skills.