Technology Integration Ideas

TechnoDebate integrates into curriculum. This project can be used to develop critical thinking, persuasive writing techniques, collaboration skills, and an appreciation of multiple viewpoints. Students can debate on a wide range of topics. You may wish to include project activities as part of a social studies, language arts, history, or science unit. Below are some suggestions:

- *Citizenship Debate:* Care about where you live. What does your community require? How can you help people in need? What action will improve the quality of life for others?

- *Democracy Debate:* Become a stakeholder and state your perspective. Should a law pass? Is a rule fair? Should development proceed? Who should pay for an initiative?

- *Ethical Debate:* Analyze a moral dilemma to understand diversity in values and beliefs. Is an action right or wrong? Are you for or against an issue? Are the motives of people good or bad? Is a decision justified or unwarranted? Is it helpful or harmful?

- *Advocacy Debate:* Highlight a problem with the status quo. Why is there a need for change? What makes the current situation unacceptable?

- *Proposal Debate:* Determine which course of action is the best. Why is Plan A better than Plan B? What are the advantages to a new plan? Why is the current system ineffective?

- *Literature Debate:* Discuss events that happened in a story. Was the decision made by a character right? Did the character deserve to win? Were the actions of a character fair? What choice should a character make? Should a character have done that action?

- *Historical Debate:* Think like a historian. Investigate a time in history to gain a better understanding of the people and events. What evidence suggests current understanding of a historical event is wrong? Was a historical decision fair to all stakeholders? What would a significant person say in a debate about an issue during their time?

- *Environmental Stewardship Debate*: Discover the balance between human needs and the sustainability of the environment. Is economic growth or nature more important? How should humans adjust their behavior to protect the environment? Who should have access to natural resources? What needs to change to protect the environment for future generations?

Tips for Topic Selection:

- ✓ *Review Topics:* Once your students have selected a topic make sure it is appropriate for a school environment and will not insult an individual student.

- ✓ *Novel Debate Ideas:* The Internet has many online debate websites that have the pro/con arguments posted. To encourage critical thinking have students debate an original topic such as a local issue, current event, or school policy. This will prevent copying other people's ideas.