

## SPAR

### Targeted Standards:

**W.6.1** – Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

**W.7.1** – Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

**W.8.1** – Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation) is a strategy that helps students practice using evidence and examples to defend a position. Because students are not given much preparation time, SPAR is most effective when students already have background information about a topic.

### Procedure:

Model this strategy before having students participate in SPAR.

1. Place students in groups of 6-8. . Assign half of the group to support one position and the other half to support the other position. Have students move their desks so they are sitting opposite an opponent.
2. Give students one to two minutes to write down their opinion with evidence for their position.
3. Provide each side an opportunity to talk together to add to their evidence. This will help weaker students be prepared to comment.
4. The students will be “SPARing” with the person sitting across from them. Each student presents a one-minute opening statement making his/her case while the other listens quietly and takes notes.
5. Give students 30 seconds to prepare ideas for what they want to say to their opponent. Invite each side to engage in a three-minute discussion during which they may question their opponent’s reasoning or examples or put forth new ones of their own.
6. Give students 30 seconds or one minute to prepare a closing statement. Each student presents, a one-minute closing statement while the other listens quietly, and then the roles reverse.

### Note:

SPAR can be modified to include time for students to gather more evidence to support their positions. Research can be as informal as giving students time to look through their notes (possibly as a homework assignment the night before) or can be as extensive as a formal research project.

### Attachments/Resources:

N/A

### Reference/Research:

Adapted and retrieved from <https://www.facinghistory.org/for-educators/educator-resources/teaching-strategies/spar-spontaneous-argumentatio>