



Tour Theme: Animals (grades 3-5)

Post-Visit Activity #2:

The Great Debate - Held in Captivity or Out in the Wild?

Lesson:

1. Divide students into two groups. Assign one group the topic, "In favor of captivity," and the other group, "Opposed to captivity."
2. The students will work in their groups to come up with points to support their argument whether or not they personally support it.
3. Have students select 4 or 5 members from their group to debate.
4. Remember this is an exercise in which there are no right or wrong answers.
5. The issues need to be discussed rationally by all members of the class.
6. The discussion will proceed in an orderly and respectful manner.
7. At the end of the debate, the audience will vote and express society's current view on your topic.

Guidelines for a Class Debate

Below is a suggested format for the debate you plan to hold.

- 10 minutes of pro presentation.
- 10 minutes of con presentation.
- 5 minutes of pro rebuttal.
- 5 minutes of con rebuttal.
- Audience questions.
- Audience voting.

Conclusion:

Discuss the pros and cons of both arguments and have the students vote on which one they support. It is important that they realize there is always more than one side to an argument.