Lesson plan from the Sphere Summit:

Proposal: Schools with high population of immigrant students should have classes offered in their native languages.

Divide students in two groups and give each group links for articles with statistics on students’ success:

For example: Learning new concepts in your native language is easier and the information received can be “stored” in your brain for longer time because of the emotional attachment to your maternal language”

And another article like this:

Learning English and being taught in English is essential for immigrant children to succeed in the USA.

Make sure to select articles that touch on different school levels (elementary, middle and high school)

Each group will divide the article in sections so that each person reads only a section and then they share what they read with their small group.

Ask each group to write down the arguments that justify and support their proposal (in favor or against).

Ask each group to then try to foresee the arguments or objections that the other team might have.

The idea is to have the students put themselves in the other group’s perspectives without reading their article. Then each group presents (DO NOT USE the word defend) their proposal and their support ideas. The class as a whole then writes a summary of pros and cons.