

## Advocacy Station Activity

# Soapbox

### Materials:

Directions "Advocacy Station" handout, soapbox (chair, crate, or stool)

### Directions:

1. Read the list of debate resolutions silently.
2. When time is called, one person should volunteer to begin by stepping on the soapbox, choosing one resolution, and speaking for 1-2 either for or against the resolution.
3. Once the speech is over, another person should volunteer to stand on the soapbox and disagree with the first speech. The second speaker steps down and invites either the first speaker or another person to challenge him or her.
4. Speeches continue until the group decides to go to another debate resolution with new speakers and speeches.
5. The only rules are: 1) during each speech, the audience should not interrupt, and 2) each speaker's needs to clearly defend or attack the debate resolution.

### Debate Resolutions:

- Women are weaker than men.
- America is the greatest country in the world.
- It is not okay to break the law.
- People should always obey their parents.
- Watching a movie at home is better than watching a movie in the theater.
- Teachers should not be allowed to take student cell phones during the school day.
- People should not use credit cards.
- The greatest television show of all time is...

### ***More about the origins of Soapbox:***

*A soapbox is a raised platform on which one stands to make an impromptu speech, often about a political subject. The term originates from the days when speakers would elevate themselves by standing on a wooden crate originally used for shipment of soap or other dry goods from a manufacturer to a retail store. The term is also used metaphorically to describe a person engaging in often flamboyant impromptu or unofficial public speaking, as in the phrases "He's on his soapbox", or "Get off your soapbox." Hyde Park, London is known for its Sunday soapbox orators, who have assembled at Speakers' Corner since 1872 to discuss religion, politics and **other topics**. A modern form of the soapbox is a blog: a website on which a user publishes one's thoughts to whoever reads the page.*