Structured Academic Controversy (SAC)
What?

• Working in small groups, and then teams, you will explore an issue through opposing positions and try to reach a consensus, or, at least, clarify where your differences lie.
Today’s Question:
Which of the U.S. Bill of Rights were inherited from the English and/or Colonial traditions and which rights owe their origin to the revolutionary period (1776 – 1787) in the United States?
Discussion Norms

• Be respectful of each other.
• Disagree with another person's position and ideas but don't be critical of the person.
• Don't take criticism of your ideas as a personal attack.
• Listen to everyone's ideas, especially if you don't agree with them.
• Change your mind when the evidence supports this.
• Try to understand both sides of the controversy.
• Understand the position differences before trying to reach consensus.
• Focus on reaching the best outcome, not on winning.
Sequence

Step 1: Preparing your position

Step 2: Presenting positions and listening for understanding

- Team English Presentation (5 min)
- Team Colonist Presentation (5 min)
- Team American Presentation (5 min)

Step 3: Presenting the opposing viewpoint

- Restatement of English by Team American (3 min)
- Restatement of Colonist by Team English (3 min)
- Restatement of Americans by Team Colonist (3 min)

Step 4: Consensus-Building