Discussion vs. debate in political education: a quasi-experimental video study

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# **Research problem statement**

- Argumentation is of particular importance regarding political learning process (Gronostay, 2019).
- Argumentative teaching methods are used by teachers with the aim of promoting the quality of argumentation and the students' ability to make judgements. However, there is a lack of research on theories concerning influencing factors, characteristics, effects and quality criteria of argumentation processes that promote learning.
- The research project aims to find out to what extent political judgement competence can be promoted by cooperative and competitive discussion formats in politics lessons and how the use of a structuring aid affects this process. For this purpose, findings from teaching/

learning psychology and international argumentation research on the effect of cooperative and competitive task goals will be related to political didactics, in particular to political argumentation and judgment, and empirically examined in the field of civic education.

# **Argumentation Vee Diagrams**



# **Theory of constructive controversy**

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Discussion formats				
cooperative discussion formats	competitive discussion formats			
Discussion features				
integration of opposing arguments	rejection of opposing arguments			
Students cognitive processes				
reconsider their own judgements	maintain their own judgement			

based on Johnson & Johnson (2009), Gronostay (2019)

### **Research questions**

- I. The use of cooperative discussion formats (discursive) has a positive effect on the quality of argumentation.
- II. The use of a structuring aid has a positive effect on the quality of the argumentation and the level of subject content.
- III. Discursive teaching methods generate higher learning success than non-discursive teaching methods such as: writing an essay.

# **Research design**

		<b>Controversial political discussion</b>		
		cooperative	competitive	non- discursive
Structuring aid	Argumentation Vee Diagram			
	Conventional structuring aid			



### Key references

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