#### FISHBOWL DEBATE

* **The class will be divided into teams representing opinions on a text (Four teams: agree/like, disagree/dislike, yes to an extent, no to an extent).**
* **Each team will identify the five *strongest* points of support for their side.**
* **Each group will develop 2-3 questions to challenge/ask the other sides.**
* **They write each question on an index card and hand them in.**
* **Four chairs will be placed in the middle of the class, facing each other. This is the “fishbowl.”**
* **Each team will choose one person to sit in the “fishbowl”**
* **The teacher will draw a question card and read it aloud.**
* **Each person in the fishbowl must speak for 1 minute in response to the question and/or to what has been said by their peers. No one in the fishbowl can speak again until each person has spoken.**
* **Once everyone in the fishbowl has spoken at least once, students from each team can begin “tapping out” their teammates, taking a place in the fishbowl as more questions are read.**
* **Alternatively, if you are in the fishbowl and have spoken, you may tap in one of your teammates to take your place.**
* **Warning! If I tap you on the shoulder, you must either enter the fishbowl or leave the fishbowl. So you must be sure to follow the discussion.**
* **Students then vote in writing on which team (not counting their own) presented the strongest argument.**
* **It often helps to poll students' opinions on a text before getting them into groups. This also works better for longer texts with a lot of material to respond to and which might invite a lot of varied opinions.**