Debates

Debates encourage students to reflect on what they are learning and apply it through dialogue. Students get the opportunity to co-create their own learning experience.

Sample Techniques	Specific Examples / Language
Encourage **general debate**	● Ask provocative questions. ● Emphasize that learnings come through dialogue. ● Open up the discussion after one student has spoken, for example: "What do you guys think of that?" ● "Does anyone disagree with that? Why?" ● "Let's get some other views." ● "In the real world there is no professor or raising hands, so I'd love for you guys to debate."
Encourage **1:1 debate**	● Encourage students to debate with the professor. ● Find the contrarian and have everyone respectfully challenge him/her and then help him/her along. ● Encourage role plays. ● "If you believe X, what would you say to [Name], who believes Y?" ● "If you said that, how do you think [Name] would react?" ● "What are you specifically disagreeing with?"
Assign debate	● Divide the class using poll question results to gauge their point of view on a case. ● Break class into teams of 6 students and have each team lead 10 minutes of class discussion.
Set the stage to get students to commit	● "Imagine you're sitting next to the protagonist on a plane and they tell you what's in the case. Based on that, what would you recommend?" ● "Let's take ourselves back to 2003 and pretend we were the CEO of X company – what would you do in their situation?"
Use **supportive non-verbals**	● In order to decrease pressure, don't make eye contact with the person speaking and instead look to the other side/debater. ● If in person, stand in the back of the room.
Manage tension	● Allow emotional tension and mild chaos to build, but intervene if students are getting overly agitated and/or disrespectful. ● Provoke students by finding out what matters to them (i.e, political stance, professional judgments). ● Only allow one person to speak at a time.