**Math – Structured Academic Controversy [SAC]**

Preparation and exploration of topic

1. (Day 1/homework) You will **gather background information** to introduce the dilemma.
2. (Day 2) You and a partner will be assigned to take a position on this issue.
3. You will then **create a thesis** outlining additional possible arguments.
4. You will then **develop the argument** by identifying appropriate mathematical examples.

Presentation of Structured Academic Controversy

1. You will **present to your opponents** your side of the argument, laying out your position and the reasons for it.
2. Your **partner(s) will present the other side** of the argument while you listen attentively and take brief notes.
3. You will **paraphrase the opposing view** as you heard it. It is your job to present the argument ***as it was made*** and to include all relevant facets of the opposing argument.
4. Your partner(s) reciprocates by **paraphrasing your view** in its entirety.

Working to consensus

1. **Write down your personal view**. You are now cleared to ‘think freely’.
2. There will be **open discussion** regarding the issue at hand. Effective learners will:
   1. **Ask** questions about the opposing argument. **Listen** to the responses provided.
   2. **Consider changing your view**. Change your personal view if the evidence for the other argument is clear and convincing. **Note why you changed** your view.
3. **Work to consensus** as a group. Your group will be expected to **explain** the view that you have chosen as most likely to be true. Expect to be held responsible for **presenting your evidence** and **explaining its validity**.

Writing process and further research

1. Using your notes taken during the presentation and the consensus phases of the SAC, develop a brainstorming for a persuasive essay. Lay out all the valid arguments you can imagine for this position knowing that you will need to do additional research.
2. Stay tuned for next steps in class…