PODIUM DEBATE

A 15-minute rebuttal & feedback drill

For classroom debate teachers and school coaches

Read this claim aloud

“Schools should ban phones because students get distracted in lessons.”

1. Pick a target / 3 minutes

Ask pairs to underline one part they could challenge. Is it the **proposed solution** or the **effect on learning**? Give each student a different target.

2. Practise a reply / 6 minutes

Give each pair one minute to prepare and 30 seconds per speaker. Hear two examples as a class. After each example, ask: Which part of the original argument did it answer? Have pairs revise and try once more.

3. Give one next step / 6 minutes

Each partner identifies one useful line in the reply and one specific improvement. Give students two minutes to rewrite a sentence, then ask them to read their revised version back.

Two models to show after students try

Challenge the solution. “Would keeping phones in bags during lessons solve the same problem?”

Make feedback actionable. “Your alternative was clear. Next time, explain how a teacher would enforce it.”