

Sample Debate

Topic: Should students use tablets or textbooks?

Introduction: For today's debate topic, my partner and I are going to debate the question: should students use tablets or textbooks in the classroom?

A1. REASON #1 (FOR tablets)

In my opinion, students should use tablets for learning because they can help students learn more quickly.

support: Tablets can hold all types of information like textbooks, movies, and music. In fact, the National Training and Simulation Association reported that tablets can reduce the time students take to learn a topic by 30-80%. This means tablets help students learn faster.

B1. ATTACK #1 (against reason #1 FOR tablets)

This is not always true because children in schools will have a hard time concentrating on their classwork. Since children will not write down what the teacher says or think about they teaching is saying because they will focus on their tablets in the classroom.

REASON #1 (AGAINST tablets)

As I see it, it is cheaper for students to buy textbooks than tablets.

support: Rich students can easily buys tablets, but it will be difficult for poor students to buy tablets. For example, iPads can cost 50, 000 yen for a new model. If a family has two children, this means they will have to spend 100,000 on tablets! Poor families, and even middle-class families, don't have that much money for school supplies.

A2. ATTACK #1 (against reason #1 against tablets)

You have a good point, but e-books are much cheaper than textbooks. For example, a textbook can cost 5, 000 yen, but the e-book can cost less than 2, 000 yen. In addition, there are many types of tablets at different prices. You can buy some tablets for less than 15, 000 yen; or you can buy a used one for under 10, 000 yen.

REASON #2 (FOR tablets)

If you ask me, it is safer for students to carry tablets than many textbooks in their backpacks.

support: Doctors recommend that students carry less than 15% of their body weight in a backpack, but the combined average weight of all of a student's textbooks is above this percentage. During the 2013-14 school year, more than 13,700 kids, aged 5 to 18, had backpack-related injuries. Therefore, tablets can avoid these type of injuries.

B2. ATTACK #2 (against reason #2 for tablets)

This is not necessarily true. Students study different subjects each day, so they do not have to bring all their textbooks to school everyday. They can leave the books they do not use at home or at school.

REASON #2 (AGAINST tablets)

In my opinion, textbooks are better for the environment because they use fewer materials to make them.

support: For example, one tablet requires the extraction of 15 kilograms of minerals, 250 liters of water, and 100 kilowatt hours of fossil fuels resulting in 30 kilograms of carbon dioxide. Print books produce 100 times fewer greenhouse gases. Ten liters of water are required to make paper, and only two kilowatts hours are required to form and dry the sheets of paper.

A3. ATTACK #2 (against reason #2 for tablets)

This is not necessarily true. Tablets actually avoid a lot of paper waste. Students can download materials and teachers do not have to print them out. For example, a school with 100 teachers uses on average 250,000 pieces of paper annually, and most students throw away this paper at the end of the school year. Tablets can therefore decrease trash and help the environment.

Conclusion: A. For today's debate topic, my partner and I debated the question: should students use tablets or textbooks in the classroom?

To sum up, I believe that tablets should be used in the classroom because (1) they help students learn more quickly and (2) it is safer for students to carry one tablet than many textbooks in their backpacks.

B. However, I am against the use of tablets in the classroom because (1) tablets are too expensive and (2) they use too many natural resources to make.

Questions:

1. Are you for or against the use of tablets in the classroom? Why?
2. Which do you think are better for the environment: textbooks or tablets? Why?
3. Do you want to use tablets in your university courses? Why?
4. What types of problems will teachers have with tablets in the classroom
5. Do you think computers and tablets can replace teachers in the future? Why?

