

Was Abraham Lincoln racist?

Structured Academic Controversy Directions

We will conduct a Structured Academic Controversy in which you will find evidence to support an argument, share that argument with your group, and decide for yourself which side you agree with, using the evidence.

- 1. Prepare Your Position:** Partners will work together to find evidence in the document packet to support your assigned position. Write evidence on evidence sheet.
 - Person 1 & 2** Position: Yes, Lincoln was racist.
 - Person 3 & 4** Position: No, Lincoln was not racist.
- 2. Present Position:** Partners will take turns sharing their position and evidence.
 - Person 1 & 2** share their position and evidence
 - Person 3 & 4 restate the position, and copy down the evidence
 - Person 3 & 4** share their position and evidence
 - Person 1 & 2 restate the position, and copy down the evidence
- 3. Abandon Roles:** Discuss what you believe is the strongest argument based on the evidence, come to an agreement, or at least clarify where your differences lie with regard to the argument.
 - Consider the question: How should we judge people from the past?
- 4. Write and Independent Response:** Now write about what *you* believe. Create a short constructed response that answers the question “Was Abraham Lincoln racist?” using at least two pieces of evidence to support your answer.