



Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959) **Argumentation Activity**

This argumentation activity has students read closely, and make arguments about, this extremely important document in the history of international human rights.

Rights Conferred

Identify five specific rights that the 1959 *Declaration* confers on all children. Formulate these as complete sentences, using the stem, “The UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child guarantees to all children around the world the right to _____.”

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Two Arguments for the Most Important Right of the Child

Which of the five rights you've identified above do you believe is the most important right of the child conferred by the United Nations' 1959 *Declaration*? Here, you will make two arguments for your choice, using the argumentation template below.

Claim #1

One reason that the right of/to _____

is the most important conferred by the UN's 1959 *Declaration* is that _____

Backing for Claim #1 (Evidence and/or Reasoning)

Claim #2

Another reason that the right of/to _____

is the most important conferred by the UN's 1959 *Declaration* is that _____

Backing for Claim #2 (Evidence and/or Reasoning)



Counter-Argument and Refutation on the *Declaration*

In this section you will think critically about the *Declaration* and respond to the best counter-argument you can think of against its significance for children.

Counter-Argument

If someone were skeptical of the importance or value of the UN's 1959 *Declaration*, and its impact on children's lives around the world, formulate the best counter-argument they could make.

Refutation

Now, try to refute this counter-argument. You can concede a portion of the counter-argument, while still responding to it as a reason to dismiss the *Declaration*. You can use whatever backing you can come up with.