

Debate: Peaceful Protest Answer Key

Strong responses should include:

- A **clear, focused position** (agree or disagree).
- **Logical and respectful reasoning**, supported by real-world examples.
- A demonstration of **empathy and awareness** of differing perspectives.
- A thoughtful connection between the student's argument and Dr. King's ideals of peaceful activism and dialogue.
- Reflection that shows growth, open-mindedness, or deeper understanding.

Teacher's Guide

- Begin with a short discussion or video clip of Dr. King's speeches highlighting peace, empathy, and courage.
- Review debate etiquette: listen actively, avoid interrupting, respond with respect.
- Divide students into two sides (Agree/Disagree) or small discussion groups to keep participation balanced.

Differentiation:

- *Grades 8-9:* Provide sample argument starters such as "One reason peaceful protest works is..."
- *Grades 10-12:* Ask students to include one **real-world reference**-a historical movement, a court decision, or a recent peaceful protest.
- *Advanced:* Challenge students to explore both sides and write a final reflection explaining whether their opinion evolved after the discussion.

Engagement Ideas:

- Turn the classroom into a "**Freedom Forum**," where students use MLK quotes as part of their reasoning.
- Allow students to create **mini posters** or **digital slides** summarizing their stance after the debate.