

Name _____

Resolution Reality Answer Key

A strong response or debate position should include:

- **A clear stance:** "Resolutions are effective" or "Resolutions are short-term."
- **Reasoned evidence** such as psychological motivation, goal-setting techniques, or real-world examples.
- **Acknowledgment of the opposing side** with a thoughtful rebuttal.
- **Conclusion** that ties personal or global insight to the debate topic.

Example (student sample for the "temporary motivation" side):

I believe New Year's resolutions are mostly temporary motivation. People start with excitement, but when life gets busy, many forget or give up. Resolutions often fail because they're too vague or too big to manage. Instead of waiting for a new year, people should focus on small, realistic goals all year long. True change doesn't depend on a date—it depends on consistent effort.

Teacher's Guide

Implementation Tips:

- Begin with a quick poll: "How many of you have made a New Year's resolution—and kept it?"
- Divide the class into two teams (Pro and Con) and let students brainstorm arguments together before debating.
- For written practice, model how to structure a persuasive paragraph (claim → reason → evidence → conclusion).

Differentiation Strategies:

- **Grades 8-9:** Provide sentence starters such as "One reason I believe..." or "Some people think...but I argue that..."
- **Grades 10-12:** Encourage students to include **statistics, expert quotes, or research-based evidence**.
- **For ELLs:** Offer a list of persuasive transition words (e.g., *therefore, however, as a result*).