

# How To Watch A Presidential Debate

link to [Media Literacy: How to Watch the Presidential Debates](#)

## Standards

### Common Core ELA State Standards

The following national teaching standards may be helpful to those educators who plan to engage their students in debate analysis:

Speaking & Listening (Grade 7).

Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

Speaking & Listening (Grade 9)

Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any fallacious reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence. ([Source](#))

**McRel Language Arts Standard 8** – Uses listening and speaking strategies for different purposes

### **Level III (Grades 6-8)**

Evaluates strategies used by speakers in oral presentations (e.g. persuasive techniques, verbal messages supported by nonverbal techniques, effect of word choice, use of slanted or biased material)

Understands speaker's use of logic and evidence in verbal arguments (e.g., logical or faulty reasoning, logical fallacies, degree and quality of support for claims)

([Source](#))

**The National Civics Standards** include several references to the role of the media in the political process:

“evaluate the influence of television, radio, the press, newsletters, and emerging means of electronic communication on American politics” ([Source](#))

**The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies** is also appropriate for analyzing debates.

The chart below shows the four C3 frameworks for inquiry on the left along with some corresponding questions on the right.

The C3 Framework Inquiry Arc's Four Dimensions	Presidential Debate Considerations
1. Develop questions and plan investigations	Who is debating? What topics does this debate cover? How is social media used during/after the debate? What roles do the news media play during and after the debate?
2. Apply Disciplinary Concepts and Tools	What arguments does each candidate give to support his/her position?
3. Gather, Evaluate, and Use Evidence	Be prepared to cite exact words, phrases and more used in responses by each candidate. Research fact-checking websites that agree or disagree with something a candidate said. Do you agree with their conclusions?
4. Communicate Conclusions and take Informed Action	Create a Powerpoint or Prezi using quotes from the candidates during the debate as well as fact-checking conclusions. Post your conclusions to a school website, blog, Facebook page, or other appropriate social media.