



## Pro and Con Grid

### Overview

Pro and Con Grids can be used in any discipline and allow students to consider the advantages and disadvantages of an identified issue, procedure, action, or decision. This activity promotes a deep level of thought by requiring interaction and encouraging the sharing of ideas. The activity can be demanding, and many students may require additional support, such as training in how to debate constructively.

Pro and Con Grids are ideal for: seeking different perspectives, comparing viewpoints, promoting critical thinking, and identifying assumptions or misconceptions.

Pro and Con Grids meet the following [WSU Learning Goals](#): critical and creative thinking, information literacy, diversity, communication, and depth, breadth, and integration of learning.

**Group size:** 1-5 | **Active Time:** 20 min | **Prep. Time:** Medium

Active time is an estimate and may vary depending on your class.

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### Implementation

**Suggested Tech Tools:** Blackboard Discussion Boards, Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, Google Sheets

#### Instructor:

Create a spreadsheet with two columns: pro and con. Copy the spreadsheet into multiple tabs based on the number of groups you will have and label tabs accordingly. Indicate the number of pros and cons each individual or group should develop.

#### Students:

1. Navigate to your assigned tab in the spreadsheet. Create a list of pros and cons within your assigned tab.
2. Once done, go to at least three different groups' tabs and comment on any items that are different from your group.

### Variations & Tips:

- For **face-to-face** and **video conference (VC)** courses, students can complete their grids outside of class, leaving more time for discussion in class.
- In **online** courses, provide students with a space to discuss their responses in a Blackboard Discussion Board, or in a Blackboard Collaborate Ultra session.
- For **large-enrollment** courses, create small-groups. Each group will be responsible for contributing a specified number of pros and cons. Students can share their responses on Google Sheets.
- Be sure to provide enough time for thought and reflection.
- Create a reusable spreadsheet template.
- Identify themes, trends, or similarities among posts and use findings for basis of discussion.

### You may also be interested in:

Concept mapping  
Defining features matrix  
Ranking alternatives

### Resources:

[Pro and Con Grid](#)  
[Classroom Assessment Techniques \(CATs\)](#)

**Let's explore the possibilities together!**

Spark 102 Faculty Studio | 509-335-3557 | [li.wsu.edu](http://li.wsu.edu) | [aoi.li@wsu.edu](mailto:aoi.li@wsu.edu)

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