

# TEACHER RESOURCE 4.1

## Take This! Take That! Silent Debate

### The Issue: *Should Dennis be allowed to reject life-saving medical treatments?*

Students should form pairs and decide who will represent the FOR (YES) position and who will represent the AGAINST (NO) position.

#### Silent Debate Instructions:

1. There is no talking once the silent debate starts.
2. Note whether you are making an argument FOR or AGAINST the issue.
3. If you change the type of argument you are making, you may draw a line to separate your ideas. For example, the first argument about school uniforms (below) is about individuality, and the second argument is about money.
4. Add additional sheets of paper as necessary.

#### Silent Debate Example on School Uniforms

- **Student 1:** There should not be a school uniform because it does not allow students to express their individual personality.
  - **Student 2:** Students are in school to learn, not to express their personality.
  - **S1:** Part of school is to figure out who you are, and lack of ability to express personality does not help that process.
  - **S2:** Students learn to be like everyone else when it comes to fashion. There should be lessons that help students figure that stuff out, not clothing choices.
- 
- **S2:** There should be a school uniform because it makes less obvious the differences in how much money students have.
  - **S1:** Students know those differences anyway – they compare shoes, accessories, cars, homes, electronics, etc. Uniforms just become an additional expense for families that are already struggling.
  - **S2:** It still decreases the biggest comparison factor – name brands and variety of clothing. Uniforms could be provided free to families that cannot afford them.
  - **S1:** Avoiding the problem won't help students learn how to deal with real-life problems like how to deal with people of different economic