Devil's Advocate: Teaching Students How to Disagree Politely

Sara Okello

APPENDIX A: Phrases for Disagreeing Politely

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Actually, I think . . .

That is a good point, but . . .

I disagree. I think . . .

You've made a point, but don't you think that . . .?

I'm sorry, but I don't agree with you.

I'm afraid I disagree.

I beg to differ.

I'm not so sure about that.

Well, in my opinion . . .

I don't see it that way.
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APPENDIX B: Devil's Advocate Statements

- 1. Using marijuana for medical reasons is appropriate.
- 2. Telemarketing should be illegal.
- 3. Schools should teach only subject matter that the student is likely to make use of in the future.
- 4. English should be the world language.
- 5. Animals should not be kept in zoos.
- 6. Children should be encouraged to become independent as young as possible.
- 7. Children need a certain amount of corporal punishment, such as spanking.
- 8. Being wealthy is more important than being happy.
- 9. Economic development is more important than environmental protection.
- 10. Global warming is a serious problem that needs to be stopped.