

Ch. 2. Conflicting Functions and Processes in Education: What Makes the System Work?

1. Debates: Have students read Chapter 2 and do research on the conflicts discussed. Set up opposing sides to represent the conflicts over functions (early childhood education, creationism vs. humanism, use of technology in classrooms, achievement tests, etc.). Have students select a topic, assign them to positions on the issue, and hold a class debate. Related written assignments may help with quality of debates.
2. Content analyses: Have students develop a list of criteria to judge TV shows (role of gender, violence, educational value, etc.). Watch children's TV shows and record findings on a grid. You may want to assign different shows to different groups of students.
3. Application and analysis papers: Have students select topics/issues of interest. In small groups, analyze the functions of these topics in education and the conflicts they generate.