

**WOMEN IN WAR** *Teacher Resource***ACTIVITY 2: Women in the Infantry Four Corners Debate****Description:**

This activity introduces students to persuasion. By the end of the lesson, students are able to express their positions, as well as opposing arguments, on a particular issue.

**Materials:**

- 2 Articles: *Seven Myths about “Women in Combat”* and *“Five Myths about Women in Combat.”* (Consider also using *She Went Into Battle* article as a resource)
- 4 large pieces of paper with these words written on them: Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree

**Procedure:**

1. Title and post the four pieces of poster or chart paper in the four corners of the classroom. Titles are: Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Disagree, and Somewhat Disagree.
2. Write a controversial topic on the board: Ex. “Women should not be allowed in the infantry.”
3. Read both articles as a class and then have student complete part A of the journal entry.
4. Have students move to the corner that best matches their position.
5. Each corner will have 2 minutes to discuss and solidify their reasoning/logic. Each group selects a spokesperson to express the group's position. He/she has 30 seconds to express thoughts concisely and persuade their classmates. Other groups must listen intently. After the first corner presents, invite those who have been persuaded to move to the appropriate corner. Direct each group to present their group's position in turn. Allow students to move to the appropriate corners if they have changed their minds.
6. Have students reflect on and write about parts B and C in their journals.

**Assessment:** Each student will write a journal entry answering the following questions:

- a) Do you believe women should be allowed in the infantry? Why/why not?
- b) Did you change your mind at any point during the debate? Why/why not?
- c) What did you learn in the debate that will help you to write your letter?

Source: <http://www.saskdebate.com/media/2875/2007gamesandactivitiesguide.pdf>