



## **PESTALOZZI WORKSHOP**

**“Critical Thinking as a basis for democratic participation”**

**11-13 October 2017, Nicosia, Cyprus**

### **PROMOTING CRITICAL THINKING THROUGH ARGUMENTATION ON SOCIO-SCIENTIFIC ISSUES**



Pestalozzi Workshop: “Critical Thinking as a basis for democratic participation”,  
11-13 October 2017, Nicosia, Cyprus,  
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## **PROMOTING CRITICAL THINKING THROUGH ARGUMENTATION ON SOCIO-SCIENTIFIC ISSUES**

**Keywords:** Argumentation, construction of arguments, critical thinking, debate, evaluation of arguments, socio-scientific issues

### **PART 1: Activities:**

**Introduction** (3 min) (plenary session)

The purpose of the workshop

**First activity: What is an argument?** (12 min) (individual, group work and plenary)

The participants are divided in six groups: Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

I. The session begins with a video about drinking water.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQNCdATKeTc>

Groups 1, 2, 3

Each participant is invited to write three (3) arguments in favor of consuming tap water (individual work).

Groups 4, 5, 6

Each participant is invited to write three (3) arguments in favor of consuming bottled water (individual work).

II. Reflection and definitions/conceptualizations (Group work and plenary)

(a) What is an argument?

(b) What is a counterargument?

(c) What is argumentation?

**Second activity: Evaluation of arguments** (15 min) (individual, group work and plenary)

The participants are divided in six groups: Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

I. Each participant is invited to write assessment criteria in order to evaluate arguments' quality

Each participant is invited to assess his/her own arguments' quality. (Individual and group work)

A/A	Assessment criteria for arguments' quality	Example of arguments
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

II. Presentation of an Arguments' Quality Rubric (Sadler & Fowler, 2006) and Reflection. (Plenary)

**Third activity: Argumentation and Socio-scientific issues** (10 min) (individual, group work and plenary)

The participants are divided in six groups: Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

I. The session begins with a video about socio-scientific issues.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhQ8ZrklAQc> (1:56 – 3: 09 min)

II. Reflection and definitions/conceptualizations (Group work and plenary)

(a) What is a socio-scientific issue? Examples

(b) Why is important the use of socio-scientific issues in order to promote argumentation skills?

(c) Why is important the use of socio-scientific issues in order to promote critical thinking as a basis of democratic citizenship?

**Notes.....**

