

## Switching Debates

**When:** With Gladwell on **T 9/30:** Discuss Gladwell, “The Power of Context” and Nuwer, “Sorry, Malcolm Gladwell”

In advance, print the “Compromise Position” worksheet for each group, and enough of the first two sheets for half of your groups. (So, if you know you’re going to divide your class into six groups, print 3 sheets of the “in support of” worksheet, 3 sheets of the “against” worksheet, and 6 sheets of the “compromise” worksheet.)

**Why:** Introduces students to the idea that forming an argument isn’t just taking a side, but is really using and expanding on an author’s points.

### Instructions:

1. Divide class into an even number of groups (i.e. four groups or six groups) of 3-5 students. Half of the groups are going to fill out the "Pro-Gladwell" worksheets, while the other half will fill out the "Anti-Gladwell" worksheets.
2. Give a "Pro-Gladwell" worksheet to each of your Pro groups and an "Anti-Gladwell" worksheet to each of the Anti groups. They'll pull out quotes that either support or cast doubt on Gladwell's argument as their worksheet specifies.
3. When groups are wrapping up, pair up your groups mentally into pro- and con- pairs. Swap Pro and Con worksheets so that each group is reading an opposite group's quotes, and distribute the “compromise” sheet.
4. Give groups time to read over the other group’s argument and write down notes on the “compromise” sheet.
5. Combine the group pairs and get them to discuss their different solution with each other.