

THE GUN DEBATE

Set up a **table with two chairs** in the front of the room. Ask group members who are against handgun control to sit on one side of the room, and those who identify themselves as for handgun control to sit on the opposite side of the room. Explain to group members that they are going to debate the issue of gun control. They are free to question and dispute each others' ideas. They are *not* free to attack people or their character.

Have a member of each team sit in one of the chairs. The pro-control person has 1 minute to make a statement supporting his or her beliefs. Then the anti-control person has 1 minute to respond.

Whenever a group member finishes a statement, another member of his or her team may step forward and "tag" the teammate out of the chair.

Tagged members return to their groups, and tagging members take their places. Always alternate speakers from team to team. Continue while interest is sustained. Then ask:

- What are the best arguments we heard on both sides?
- What do both sides have in common?
- What suggestions for reducing handgun violence did we hear from both sides?
- Has anyone changed their views on gun control? Why?

Note: Undoubtedly the debate will include reference to the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which reads: A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.