At a Glance
Identifying pros and cons and making decisions about issues and topics such as
• nationalism, population growth, industrialization, or immigration
• the use of psychological tests or lie detectors
• decision-making on a personal or group level

Differentiated Instruction: Lesson 1
Divide regular and advanced students into pairs to brainstorm pros and cons. Assign half the pairs to work on pros and other half on cons. After all pairs have finished brainstorming, form two groups, one for pros and one for cons. Have the groups work together to complete the chart.

LESSON 1 SUPPORT FOR READING
Step-by-Step Strategy
1. After students have finished reading a text identifying an issue with pros and cons, display the Decision Chart for the students.
2. Allow students to brainstorm the best way to phrase the issue and dictate the final version for the “Issue” box.
3. Divide students into pairs and assign an equal number to brainstorm pros and cons.
4. Reconvene the full class and record the issue’s pros and cons as students identify them.
5. When the chart is complete, ask students to write a thesis statement that supports either a pro or con position on the issue.

LESSON 2 SUPPORT FOR WRITING
Step-by-Step Strategy
1. Tell students to imagine they are high-ranking political officials who have the power to make major decisions. As an important official, each student will need to write a letter explaining to the public how a major decision was made.
2. Hand out copies of a Decision Chart or direct students to locate one online.
3. Give students a choice of two or three topics/issues for their letters. Ask them to use the decision chart to develop their plans for their letters.
4. Give students the following format for their letter.
   • Begin by telling your audience what your decision is.
   • Explain why you made the decision by stating the pros in favor of your decision.
   • Restate your decision and summarize why it was the best decision.