

STRIFE

Argument, Conflict, Discord, Dispute, Quarrel and Rivalry

1. ESSENCE

- 4685 In quarreling the truth is always lost.
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 4686 To strive with an equal is dangerous;
with a superior, mad;
with an inferior, degrading.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

2. OPPOSITES

- 4687 Wise men argue causes, and fools decide them.
Anacharsis (fl. B.C. 600)
- 4688 The whole concord of this world consists in discords.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 4689 In a false quarrel there is no true valor.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 4690 There is no dispute managed without passion,
and yet there is scarce a dispute worth a passion.
Thomas Sherlock (1678-1761)
- 4691 Strong and bitter words indicate a weak cause.
Victor Hugo (1802-1885)
- 4692 Controversy equalizes fools and wise men -
and the fools know it.
Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)
- 4693 If we open a quarrel between the past and the present,
we shall find that we have lost the future.
Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

3. INSIGHT

- 4694 Fishes live in the sea, as men do on land:
the great ones eat up the little ones.
Pericles (B.C. 495-429)
- 4695 Great affection is often
The cause of violent animosity.
The quarrels of men often arise
From too great a familiarity.
Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)

- 4696 No conflict is so severe as his who labors to subdue himself.
Thomas A. Kempis (1380-1471)
- 4697 He who establishes his arguments by noise and command shows that reason is weak.
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 4698 Arguments, like children, should be like the subject that begets them.
Thomas Dekker (1577-1632)
- 4699 When worthy men fall out, only one of them may be faulty first; but if the strife continue long, both commonly become guilty.
Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)
- 4700 Quarrels would not last long if the fault was only on one side.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 4701 A knock-down argument; 'tis but a word and a blow.
Dryden (1631-1700)
- 4702 Nothing is more certain than that much of the force, as well as grace, of arguments or instructions depends on their conciseness.
Pope (1688-1744)
- 4703 Assertion is not argument; to contradict the statement of an opponent is not proof that you are correct.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 4704 In most quarrels there is a fault on both sides. A quarrel may be compared to a spark, which cannot be produced without a flint, as well as steel. Either of them, may hammer on wood forever; no fire will follow.
Colton (1780-1832)
- 4705 Neither irony nor sarcasm is argument.
Rufus Choate (1799-1859)
- 4706 People generally quarrel because they cannot argue.
G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)
- 4707 The man who strikes first admits that his ideas have given out.
Chinese Proverb

4. POSITIVE

- 4708 It may happen sometimes that a long debate
Becomes the cause of a longer friendship.
Commonly, those who dispute with one another
At last agree.
Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)
- 4709 He that wrestles with us strengthens our nerves, and
sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper.
Burke (1729-1797)
- 4710 Everywhere in the Universe, what we call Life and Movement
results from a continual conflict of Forces or Impulses.
Whenever that active antagonism ceases, the immobility and
inertia, which are Death, result.
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 4711 When the fight begins within himself,
a man's worth something.
Robert Browning (1812-1889)
- 4712 Like the course of the heavenly bodies, harmony in national
life is a resultant of the struggle between contending
forces. In frank expression of conflicting opinion lies the
greatest promise of wisdom in governmental action; and in
suppression lies ordinarily the greatest peril.
Louis D. Brandeis (1856-1941)
- 4713 Conflict is the gadfly of thought. It stirs us to
observation and memory. It instigates to invention.
It shocks us out of sheeplike passivity, and sets us
at noting and contriving.
John Dewey (1859-1952)

5. NEGATIVE

- 4714 Better is a dry morsel with quiet
than a house full of feasting with strife.
Proverbs (B.C. 1000?-200?)
- 4715 If thou continuest to take delight in idle argumentation
thou mayest be qualified to combat with the sophists, but
will never know how to live with men.
Socrates (B.C. 469-399)
- 4716 If a house be divided against itself,
that house cannot stand.
Mark (50?-100? A.D.)

- 4717 Argument, as usually managed, is the worst sort of conversation, as in books it is generally the worst sort of reading.
Swift (1667-1745)
- 4718 Those who in quarrels interpose,
Must often wipe a bloody nose.
Gay (1688-1732)
- 4719 Weakness on both sides is, as we know, the motto of all quarrels.
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 4720 He that blows the coals in quarrels he has nothing to do with has no right to complain if the sparks fly in his face.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 4721 It is not necessary to understand things in order to argue about them.
Beaumarchais (1732-1799)
- 4722 The pain of dispute exceeds by much its utility.
All disputation makes the mind deaf;
and when people are deaf I am dumb.
Joubert (1754-1824)

6. ADVICE

- 4723 Scorn also to depress thy competitor by any dishonest or unworthy method; strive to raise thyself above him only by excelling him; so shall thy contest for superiority be crowned with honour, if not with success.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 4724 But curb thou the high spirit in thy breast,
For gentle ways are best, and keep aloof
From sharp contentions.
Homer (c. B.C. 700)
- 4725 You should respect each other and refrain from disputes; you should not, like water and oil, repel each other, but should, like milk and water, mingle together.
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 4726 In arguing one should meet serious pleading with humor, and humor with serious pleading.
Gorgias (B.C. 483-376)

- 4727 Do not speak harshly to any one; those who are spoken to will answer thee in the same way. Angry speech is painful: blows for blows will touch thee.
The Dhammapada (c. B.C. 300)
- 4728 A quarrel is quickly settled when deserted by one party: there is no battle unless there be two.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 4729 Beware of entrance to a quarrel; but being in, Bear it, that the opposer may beware of thee.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 4730 Be calm in arguing; for fierceness makes Error a fault, and truth discourtesy.
Herbert (1593-1632)
- 4731 Don't take the wrong side of an argument just because your opponent has taken the right side.
Baltasar Gracian (1601-1658)
- 4732 In a debate, rather pull to pieces the argument of thy antagonist than offer him any of thy own; for thus thou wilt fight him in his own country.
Henry Fielding (1707-1754)
- 4733 There is no good in arguing with the inevitable. The only argument available with an east wind is to put on your overcoat.
James Lowell (1819-1891)
- 4734 Desire nothing, Chafe not at fate, nor at Nature's changeless laws. But struggle only with the personal, the transitory, the evanescent and the perishable.
H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)
- 4735 The unforgivable crime is soft hitting. Do not hit at all if it can be avoided; but never hit softly.
Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919)
- 4736 The master-secret in fighting is to strike once, but in the right place.
John Snaith (1876-1936)

7. POTPOURRI

- 4737 Heaven and water go their opposite ways:
The image of CONFLICT.
Thus in all his transactions the superior man
Carefully considers the beginning.
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 4738 He who knows does not speak;
He who speaks does not know.
He who is truthful is not showy;
He who is showy is not truthful.
He who is virtuous does not dispute;
He who disputes is not virtuous.
He who is learned is not wise;
He who is wise is not learned.
Therefore the sage does not display his own merits.
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 4739 Dissension, like small streams, are first begun,
Scarce seen they rise, but gather as they run:
So lines that from their parallel decline,
More they proceed the more they still disjoin.
Samuel Garth (1670-1719)
- 4740 Great contest follows, and much learned dust
Involves the combatants; each claiming truth,
And truth disclaiming both.
Cowper (1731-1800)
- 4741 Discord, a sleepless hag who never dies,
With Snipe-like nose, and Ferret-glowing eyes,
Lean sallow cheeks, long chin with beard supplied,
Poor cracklin joints, and wither'd parchment hide,
As if old Drums, worn out with martial din,
Had clubb'd their yellow Heads to form her Skin.
John Wolcot (1738-1819)
- 4742 Alas! how light a cause may move
Dissension between hearts that love!
Hearts that the world in vain had tried,
And sorrow but more closely tied;
That stood the storm when waves were rough,
Yet in a sunny hour fall off.
Thomas Moore (1779-1852)
- 4743 Twas blow for blow, disputing inch by inch,
For one would not retreat, nor t'other flinch.
Byron (1788-1824)

- 4744 Controversy - A battle in which spittle or ink replace
the...cannon ball.
Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?)
- 4745 I dislike arguments of any kind. They are always vulgar,
and often convincing.
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 4746 A young Apollo, golden haired,
Stands dreaming on the verge of strife,
Magnificently unprepared
For the long littleness of life.
Frances C. Cornford (1886-1960)