

Control Versus

A card game for a divisive era
5-8 players Ages 13+ 30-60 minutes

GAME SET-UP : Shuffle the blue and red card decks separately. Place both decks face down. Deal each player a hand of 7 blue cards.

GAME START : The most politically vocal person playing, as determined by group consensus, is the first “selector.”

TURN START : The selector turns over the top card from the red card deck, reads it aloud, and places it face-up on the table.

RESPONSE PHASE : All other players then choose a blue card from their hand as a response to the red card and place it, face-down, in a pile on the table.

SELECTION PHASE : The selector shuffles the face-down blue cards and turns them face-up one by one, reading them aloud. The selector picks a blue card from the options that they would like to hear defended. Selectors may pick any card for any reason.

DEFENSE PHASE : The player who played the selected blue card identifies themselves and provides a defense (reason, explanation, etc.) for the selected blue card as a response to the red card. Any other player wishing to provide an alternate defense may also do so. When all players who wish to make a defense have done so, the selector chooses their favorite defense. Selectors may pick any defense for any reason.

OPTIONAL DEFENSE TIME LIMIT : *A time limit for each defense may be instituted (e.g., 30 or 60 seconds).*

TURN END AND SCORING : The player who played the selected blue card scores one point and retains the red card as a scorekeeping device. The player who provided the selector’s favorite defense scores points equal to the total number of defenses presented (e.g., 2 points if two players stated defenses), retaining blue cards equal to the number of points as a scorekeeping device.

NEXT TURN: All remaining blue cards are discarded. Players other than the selector draw one blue card so their hand has 7 cards again. The player to the left of the most recent selector then takes their turn as the selector and the steps above repeat.

GAME END: The game ends when any player has obtained a total of 20 points.

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Feedback?

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