Structured Academic Controversy

I. Read the central historical question.

II. Preparation for SAC

   a. Form groups of four.
      i. Meet your partner.
      ii. Identify the position that your partner team will defend.

      Side 1: YES, Americans supported the Butler Act.
      Side 2: NO, Americans did not support the Butler Act.

   b. Everyone reads through the set of documents and looks for evidence to support their side of the argument.

III. Position Presentation

   a. Pair 1 presents their position using supporting evidence from the texts.
   b. Pair 2 restates Pair 1’s position to Pair 1’s satisfaction.
   c. Pair 2 presents their position using supporting evidence from the texts.
   d. Pair 1 restates Pair 2’s position to Pair 2’s satisfaction.

IV. Consensus-Building

   a. Pair 1 and Pair 2 put their roles aside.
   b. Groups discuss ideas that have been presented regarding the inquiry question.
      i. Figure out where you can agree.
      ii. Figure out where you differ.
   c. Groups develop consensus, and answer the central historical question (or at least clarify where their differences lie), using supporting evidence.