

English

Quick activity

Debating

Debating is a great activity to get the students to discuss controversial topics.

It combines speaking and listening as well as topic preparation.

Firstly, you should decide on a controversial topic. Then divide the students into two groups where one should agree with the statement and the other group is against the given topic.



### List of possible topics

- Some soft drugs should be made legal
- Children should not have their own smart phone
- The age of buying alcohol should be increased to 25
- Men and women should compete against each other in the Olympics
- Rich people should pay higher taxes
- Healthcare should be free for everybody
- Drug addicts should get paid help
- Eating competitions should be banned
- Celebrities should earn less money

Allow 5-10 minutes preparation time for the students to find arguments for and against the statement.

**Example:** Should wind turbines be banned?

Divide the class into two teams and decide which group will agree with the statement and which group should find arguments against it.

Allocate enough time to find good arguments. It can be tricky for the team to find points against their own belief.

The lists of pros and cons could look like this:

TEAM A

TEAM B



- > energy source
- > cost efficient
- > remote location



- > threat to birds
- > noise
- > eye sore
- > expensive to build

Before you start the debate, work through the useful expression boxes:



## Language focus

### To begin this debate

- One of my points against this topic is...(State the topic and start with your first argument.)
- In my opinion...
- I would like to state, that...
- First of all I would like to point out...

### Interaction

- May I ask a question?
- Could you elaborate your point please?
- What do you mean by that?
- My addition....
- Furthermore...
- May I add...
- Why....

### Agreeing / Disagreeing

- I totally agree with you.
- I am of the same opinion
- I am not quite sure about this.
- I am afraid this is not correct.
- Nonsense!

### Conclusion

- To sum up...
- My final thought on this is..
- In a nutshell...
- To recap the main points...
- Finally,..

Encourage everyone to speak.

Let's debate 😊