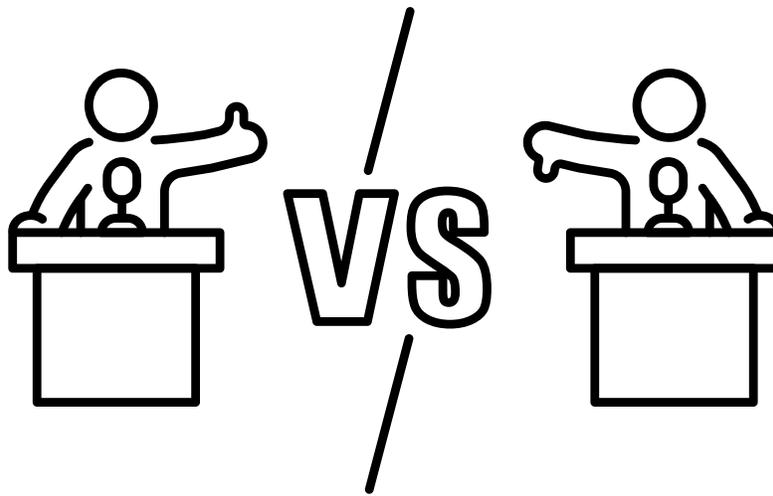


LET'S HAVE A DEBATE



Lesson materials for holding class debates.

1. Debate Organizers
2. Debate language glossary
3. How To Debate Instructions
4. Pros And Cons Organizer
5. Debate Topic Cards
6. PPTx intro. For or Against?
7. Debate Sentence Starters / Expressions



For or Against?



DEBATE ORGANIZER

Organize your thoughts about a debate topic.

Supporters Believe

Opponents Believe

The Issue Is ...

Most People Think

I Think

How to Hold a Class Debate

Debate any topic in your classroom using this class debate framework.

Here's How:

1. Introduce debates by producing the rubric that you will be using to grade them.
For a sample rubric, please see related sites at the bottom of this page.
2. A few weeks before the debate(s), give students the topic(s) to be covered.
3. Have students give you an ordered list showing in which debates they prefer to participate in order of preference.
4. From these lists make a debate group consisting of two students for each side of your debate: pro and con.
5. Before you hand the debate assignments out, explain that some students might be debating positions opposite to their beliefs. This is an important skill for them to learn.
6. On the day of the debate, give students in the 'audience' a blank rubric. Explain that it is their job to judge the debate objectively.
7. Begin the debate with the pro side speaking first. Allow them 5-7 minutes of uninterrupted time to explain their position. Both members must participate equally.
8. Repeat step number seven for the con side.
9. Give both sides about three minutes to confer and prepare for their rebuttal.
10. Begin the rebuttals with the con side and give them three minutes to speak. Both members must participate equally.

Repeat step number 10 for the pro side. Allow the audience to ask questions of the debating teams.

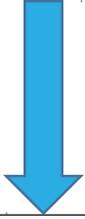
Tips:

1. Possibly give extra credit to the audience for well thought out questions.
2. Use the audience members' rubrics to help give comments on your official rubric for each team.

TOPIC

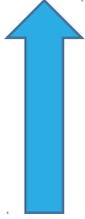
Reasoning / Evidence

Yes



Question

No



Reasoning / Evidence

Draw anything that helps your argument

Conclusion:

DEBATE



PRACTICE

1. Organizing your thoughts and opinions.

Using transitions while debating is essential!

With a partner argue **FOR** or **AGAINST** the topics below.

One person be the “angel” and state the advantages.

One person be the “devil’s advocate” and state the disadvantages.

Use examples to strengthen your points. **For example**,

State your arguments orderly! Use transitions!

1. First of all / In the first place / Most importantly / First and foremost,
2. Secondly / What’s more / Furthermore / In addition
3. Lastly / Last but not least / Finally / Let’s not forget

USING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION / WORKING MOTHER
BEING A TEACHER / PLASTIC SURGERY / IMMIGRATING
CITY LIVING / BEING VEGETARIAN / LEARNING 2ND LANGUAGE
PAYING CASH / WATCHING TV

THINGS I SUPPORT

Which of these debate topics do you support?
After, compare with others and argue, take a stand!



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> mandatory voting | <input type="checkbox"/> universal salary | <input type="checkbox"/> easier adoption |
| <input type="checkbox"/> free college/university | <input type="checkbox"/> no drug advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> break up "Big Tech" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gay marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> no gambling | <input type="checkbox"/> mandatory vaccination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> death penalty - murder | <input type="checkbox"/> ban violent sports | <input type="checkbox"/> limit # of children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment | <input type="checkbox"/> tight immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment insurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> funded religious schools | <input type="checkbox"/> total free speech | <input type="checkbox"/> minimum wage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high taxes on the rich | <input type="checkbox"/> jury duty | <input type="checkbox"/> public naming criminals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> right to own a gun | <input type="checkbox"/> ban lotteries | <input type="checkbox"/> needles for addicts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> legalize marijuana | <input type="checkbox"/> no homeless camping | <input type="checkbox"/> higher meat prices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> criminalize debt | <input type="checkbox"/> universal medicare | <input type="checkbox"/> one car only |

WHAT OTHER THINGS DO YOU TOTALLY SUPPORT?

Debate It

Choose *two* of the debate topics below. You need to decide if you are going to speak for the topic or against the topic, and write your argument on the lines below.

- 1. Should mobile phones be allowed in schools?
- 2. Are sports and games as important as studies?
- 3. Is there life on Mars?
- 4. Do we learn from history?
- 5. Animals should not be kept in zoos.
- 6. Stop eating meat and help save the planet.
- 7. Lower the voting age and let kids vote.
- 8. Grades should be abolished from school.
- 9. Increase the speed limit on the highways.
- 10. Everyone must learn a second language.

Topic 1: _____

Topic 2: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

VOICE YOUR OPINION GOOD OR BAD?

There are many issues which people don't agree upon. Here are some.
Note if you think it is good or bad and in a short sentence say why.

Same Sex Marriage

Universal Health Care

Vaccination

Small Government

Nuclear Energy

Tight Immigration

A Strong Military

Government Day Care

Global Warming

Legalizing Drugs

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY OPINION PIECE

Write an opinion piece based on a topic. Follow the structure to organize your thoughts. Use linking words and phrases, such as because, therefore, and since to connect your reasons to your opinion. Good luck!

Topic: _____

Opinion



Reason 1 + Example 1



Reason 2 + Example 2



Reason 3 + Example 3

Conclusion

Expressing personal opinions

Well personally

In my opinion,

If I had my way

From my point of view

**What I'm more concerned
with is**

I believe it best if

In my case

This classroom is too

The government needs to cut taxes.

Professional athletes are paid way too much money.

It takes too long to see a doctor!

I'll never learn English with this textbook.

Money isn't as important as having a job you love.

Children should be seen not heard.

I have to borrow money from my brother this week.

If people don't want to go to school, they shouldn't have to.

Supporting An Argument

For example

If you have a dog, you'll be happier.

For one thing

Smoking will make you poor.

Look at the way

Just memorizing English won't make you speak well.

For instance

Art is a great investment.

Take for example

Hard work pays off and you can relax when you are older.

To give you an idea

Being nice to people brings you good luck.

By way of illustration

UFOs do exist and we are not alone.

Look how

Science and technology are the best subjects to study.

A perfect example is

Drinking some wine every day will help you live long.

Generalizing / Stereotyping

Generally,

Usually,

As a rule

Without exception

Generally speaking

Time and time again

Most of the time

Again and again

So often

By and large

Every so often

From time to time

Every now and then

Once in a while

Teachers

Politicians

Dog lovers

Men

Teenagers

The elderly

My neighbors

My best friend

Hockey players

Drug addicts

Pets

The blind

Marriage

Scientists

Smokers

Professors

Women

Poets

Parents

Monks

EXPRESSIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

Asking someone for their opinion about a topic

Yes/No Questions

- *Do you believe in ...?*
- *Do you believe in ...?*
- *Do you think we should ...?*
- *Do you think everybody should ...?*
- *Do you think that...?*
- *Would you consider ...?*
- *Would you ever consider ...?*

OR Questions

- *Are you for or against ...?*
- *Would you prefer...?*
- *Would you rather ...?*
- *What is better: - ... or ...?*

WH Questions

- *What do you think of ...?*
- *What do you think of ...?*
- *What do you think of package holidays?*
- *What do you think is the problem between ... and ...?*
- *What do you think is the problem with ...?*
- *What do you think are the causes of ...?*
- *What are the advantages and disadvantages...?*

Negative Yes/No Questions

- *Don't they...?*
- *Don't you think it's better to ...?*
- *Don't you understand that ...?*
- *Don't you see that ...?*
- *Can't you see that ...?*
- *Wouldn't it be better to ...?*
- *Wouldn't it be wiser to ...?*
- *Wouldn't you agree that ...?*
- *Why shouldn't they?*

Delaying Strategies

- *I can't answer that directly.*
- *I'll need time to think about that.*
- *That's a very interesting question, because...*

- *That's a difficult question to answer, because...*
- *That's a tough question to answer, because...*
- *To be honest, that's a difficult question, because ...*
- *That's a very good question. The reality is that ...*
- *What do you mean by that?*
- *What do you mean by ...?*
- *Well, it depends on what you mean...*
- *Well, if you ask me, it all depends on your circumstances...*
- *Well....*

Asking someone information

- *I'd like to know*
- *I'm interested in*
- *Could you tell me...?*
- *Could I ask about ...?*
- *Do you know if...?*
- *Do you know what...is?*
- *Do you happen to know whether or not...?*
- *Do you happen to know what.... Is?*

Presenting arguments

Presenting the most important point

- *The main thing is...*
- *The most important thing is...*
- *Primarily*
- *Most importantly,*

Presenting a number of arguments

- *First of all, ...*
- *Firstly, ...*
- *Well, firstly ...*
- *To begin with, ...*
- *I'd start by ...*
- *For a start, ...*
- *There're two points here. Firstly, ... Secondly, ...*
- *There are two problems here Moreover*
- *You also have to consider*

EXPRESSIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

Adding an argument

- *Also, ...*
- *Again, that depends on ...*
- *In addition, ...*
- *What's more, ...*
- *I might add that...*
- *Perhaps I should also mention...*
- *Not to mention the fact that ...*
- *Plus the fact that...*
- *Not only that, but...*

Giving your opinion about a topic

Expressing a strong opinion

- *In my opinion, ...*
- *In my view, ...*
- *In my reckoning, ...*
- *I strongly believe in ...*
- *I definitely think that ...*
- *Well, if you ask me, ...*
- *Well, I think ...*
- *I believe*
- *I strongly believe*
- *I have a reason to believe*
- *I'm sure that...*
- *I'm pretty sure that...*

Expressing a strong value (It's / They're + value adjective)

- *It's a nonsense to ...*
- *... It's a scandal, because ...*
- *It's perfect for ...*
- *It's wrong... Likewise, ...*
- *They're ideal ...*

Expressing certainty

- *According to government statistics, ...*
- *Actually, ...*
- *In fact, ...*
- *Clearly, ...*
- *Obviously, ...*
- *People have always ...*
- *People just won't continue to ...*
- *Without doubt, ...*
- *There's no doubt that*
- *Undoubtedly*
- *Surely, ...*

Agreeing

Expressing complete agreement

- *Exactly!*
- *Precisely!*
- *Totally!*
- *Absolutely!*
- *That's right!*
- *Correct!*
- *You're right!*
- *You're so right!*
- *That's so true!*
- *I couldn't agree with you more!*
- *I'm with you on that*
- *That's just what I was thinking!*
- *That's exactly what I think.*
- *That's a good point.*
- *That's just how I see it.*
- *My feelings exactly.*
- *I'll say!*
- *You can say that again!*

Agreeing in part

- *Yes, perhaps, however ...*
- *Well, yes, but ...*
- *Yes, in a way, however ...*
- *Hmm, possibly, but ...*
- *Yes, I agree up to a point, however ...*
- *Well, you have a point there, but ...*
- *There's something there, I suppose, however...*
- *I guess you could be right, but ...*
- *Yes, I suppose so, however ...*
- *That's worth thinking about, but ...*

Expressing conditional agreement

- *I'd agree with you if ...*
- *I'd certainly agree if you're thinking of ...*

EXPRESSIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

Disagreeing

Expressing complete disagreement

- *I don't think so!*
- *I disagree*
- *I disagree entirely.*
- *I'm afraid I can't agree.*
- *I'm afraid you're wrong*
- *On the contrary!*
- *Definitely not!*
- *Rubbish!*
- *Nonsense!*
- *That's ridiculous!*
- *Never in a million years!*
-

Using irony to express disagreement

- *Come off it!*
- *Come on!*
- *Do you really think so?*
- *What!*
- *You can't actually mean that!*
- *You can't be serious!*
- *Are you pulling my leg?*
- *Are you kidding?*
- *You must be kidding!*

Dismissing an argument as irrelevant or improbable.

- *That isn't the point.*
- *That's highly debatable.*
- *That's highly unlikely.*

Disagreeing diplomatically (through doubt)

- *I wonder whether that's the case.*
- *Hmmm, I'm not sure about that..*
- *I'm not sure (that) it works like that.*
- *I'm not so sure about that.*
- *I'm not so certain*
- *Well, I'm not sure whether you can really ...*
- *Well, I don't know...*
- *Well, it depends...*
- *I'm inclined to disagree with that...*

Disagreeing in part (appeal to logic)

- *Not necessarily*
- *That doesn't necessarily follow.*
- *That's not necessarily true*
- *That isn't strictly true.*

Countering

Countering directly (through antithesis)

- *But*
- *But who can say that ...?*
- *But why ...?*
- *But if ...*
- *But surely, ...*

Countering politely (through agreement followed by antithesis)

- *Yes, but remember that*
- *Yes, but it isn't that ...*

Countering politely (through partial agreement followed by antithesis)

- *That may be so, but ...*
- *That may be true, but ...*
- *That may be so, ...*
- *That might have been the case once, but ...*
- *Well, maybe they do, but ...*
- *You may be right about ..., but ..*
- *Maybe...But the problem is...*
- *That's a good idea, but...*
- *That's a good point, but...*
- *I'd love to, but...*
- *That would be great, except that...*
- *That may be so, but...*
- *Possibly, but...*
- *..., but what I'm concerned with is...*
- *..., but what I'm afraid of is...*
- *..., but what bothers me is...*
- *..., but what I don't like is...*
- *..., but what I'm concerned with is...*

Countering using "after all" "at least" "even so" both for concession and antithesis

- *... After all, ...*
- *At least there's ...*
- *But at least...*
- *Well, even so, ...*

EXPRESSIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

Logical Argument

Questions or conclusions based on conditions with "if"

- *If ..., why don't they just ...?*
- *What if ...?*
- *And what happens if ...?*
- *What would happen then if ...?*
- *If that is so..., (then)*
- *That would be true if...*
- *You would be right if...*
- *That would make sense if...*
- *It'd be O.K. if ...*

Questions based on conditions with sentence adverbials "then" and "so"

- *But if you... Then how do you go about ...?*
- *Then can you tell me what's wrong with ...?*

Expressing Cause and effect

Cause

- *The reason why... is ...*
- *The reason why ... is that ...*
- *Due to ...,...*
- *Because...*
- *Because of...*
- *Because...,*
- *Since...,*
- *...is why...*

Result

- *For this reason,...*
- *For this reason alone, ...*
- *Owing to this, ...*
- *This is why ...*
- *That's why...*
- *This is the reason why ...*
- *Therefore*
- *So*
- *As a result*
- *Consequently,...*
- *Thus,...*

Clarification

Asking someone to repeat

- *Pardon me?*
- *Pardon?*
- *Excuse me?*
- *Sorry?*
- *I'm sorry?*
- *I beg you pardon?*
- *Could you say that again?*
- *Would you repeat that please?*
- *Would you mind repeating that please?*
- *Sorry, what did you say?*
- *Sorry, what was that?*
- *What's that again?*

When you can't follow the logical progression in someone's argument

- *You lost me there.*
- *I'm lost.*
- *I'm not following.*
- *I don't follow.*
- *I didn't get that.*

Asking for clarification through short Yes/No Questions inviting illustration or example.

- *And are they right?*
- *Does that make it ok?*
- *Can you be a bit more specific?*
- *Are you saying that ...?.*
- *Are we talking about ...?*

Clarification through "What" or "How" Questions inviting illustration or example.

- *What's wrong with that?*
- *What's wrong with ...?.*
- *What do you mean?*
- *What do you mean by ...?*
- *What are you trying to say?*
- *In what way?*
- *How do you mean?*
- *Why do you say that?.*
- *Why is that*
- *Why not?*
- *Can you explain why ...?*
- *Why do you think that?*

EXPRESSIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

Giving clarification / Reiteration through reference to subject

- *I'm talking about ...*
- *I'm saying that ...*
- *What I'm saying is that ...*
- *The whole point of this is that...*
- *That's what this discussion's about.*
- *I'm talking about ...*

Giving clarification after misunderstanding

- *What I mean is...*
- *What I meant is...*
- *What I'm saying is...*
- *What I'm trying to say is...*
- *Don't get me wrong...*
- *Don't misunderstand me...*
- *Let me put it another way, ...*
- *That's not what I said...*
- *That's not what I meant*
- *What I said was...*
- *What I really said/mean/meant...*
- *You must have misunderstood me...*
- *Let's get it straight...*

Illustrating a point

- *For example, ...*
- *For instance, ...*
- *Take for example ...*
- *A classic example of this is...*
- *A classic example of this would be...*
- *To illustrate my point...*
- *Let me give you an example...*
- *Just as an example, let me ...*

Expressing solutions and alternatives

- *The solution is to ... Then you will ...*
- *The best way to ... is ...*
- *To ..., you really have to*
- *There are many choices. You can ... You can*
- *Alternatively, ...*
- *Instead, ...*
- *The alternative is...*

Interrupting

Polite interruption

- *Sorry, but...*
- *May I say something?*
- *May I add something?*
- *May I ask a question?*
- *I'd like to say something about that*

Holding the floor

- *Hold on*
- *Hold on a second*
- *Yes, I was about to mention that.*
- *Well, I was about to come to th.t*
- *Sorry, I haven't finished yet*
- *... I haven't made my point yet*
- *... I'm about to make my point*
- *... I'm almost done*
- *... If you could just give me a second*
- *... If you let me finish, I'll tell you!*
- *Please let me finish*
- *Could you wait until I'm done?*
- *I'm talking here!*
- *Would you let me finish?*
- *Would you hold on a second?*

When two people start speaking at the same time

- *Please*
- *Go ahead*
- *You first*
- *Please, I can wait*
- *It wasn't all that relevant*
- *It wasn't important*
- *Never mind.*

Specific cases

- *In that case*
- *In that respect*
- *If you are talking about..., then...*
- *As far as that goes...*
- *On that point...*

EXPRESSIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

Exceptions

- *There are exceptions, of course...*
- *One should mention, or course...*
- *An exception to that is...*
- *This does include...*
- *Except of course...*
- *One exception is...*
- *Another exception is...*

Getting back to the point

- *Anyway*
- *In any case,...*
- *To return to...*
- *Returning back to...*
- *To get back to the point...*
- *Let's get back to the point...*
- *Where was I?*
- *What were we talking about?*

Generalizations

- *Generally,...*
- *In general, ...*
- *As a rule,...*
- *Usually,*
- *Typically,*
- *By and large,*
- *On average,*
- *Generally speaking,*
- *Speaking in general terms,...*

Conclusions

- *To make a long story short,...*
- *So in short,...*
- *So you see...*
- *So, finally,...*
- *So,...*
- *All in all,...*
- *In the end,...*
- *To conclude,...*
- *To sum up,...*
- *To summarize,...*
- *Summing up, ...*
- *To put it simply,...*
- *To put it in a few words, ...*
- *In a nutshell,...*
- *In brief, ...*
- *To be brief,...*

EXPRESSIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

Soliciting feedback

Making sure that you have the listener's attention.

- *Right?*
- *You know?*
- *(you) know what I mean?*
- *You understand?*
- *Got me?*
- *Got it?*

Making sure that the listener is following your explanation or logical argument.

- *(are) You following?*
- *Are you following me?*
- *Are you with me?*
- *Okay so far?*
- *Do you understand so far?*
- *Have you got it?*
- *(It) Makes sense, right?*

Reminding the listener of something you said earlier.

- *Remember?*
- *Remember when I said...?*

Providing feedback

Keeping the conversation

- *Right*
- *Okay*
- *Yeah*
- *I know what you mean.*
- *I know.*
- *I see...*
- *Of course*
- *That's normal*
- *True*

Keeping the conversation by asking the speaker to provide more information.

- *Yes?*
- *And?*
- *Well?*
- *So?*

- *Then...*
- *And then?*
- *Such as...?*
- *Mh hm*
- *Uh-huh*

Keeping the conversation by showing surprise.

- *Really?*
- *Is that right?*
- *I didn't know that!*
- *Wow!*
- *Are you sure?*
- *How do you know?*
- *How do you know that?*
- *Who told you that?*
- *No way!*
- *No!*
- *(are) you serious?*
- *For real?*
- *How's that possible?*

Explanations

- *Let's see...*
- *Ok!*
- *Let me put it this way*
- *Let me put it another way.*
- *Let me see if I can explain it for you*
- *Here's the thing.*
- *Here is what I mean.*
- *This is what I want to say.*
- *I'll try to explain.*
- *Let me try again.*
- *Here's what you need to know/remember*



Rap Music



Legal Drugs



The Beatles



**Private
Health Care**



**Women
Boxing**



**Getting Married
Young**



Donald Trump



**Global
Warming**



**Taking
Vitamins**



The Death Penalty



**Classical
Music**



Gay Marriage



**Big Game
Hunting**



**Online
Degrees**



**Illegal
Downloads**



**Canned
Food**



Opera



Uber & Lyft



Unions



**Nuclear
Power**



**Beauty
Pageants**



Gun Ownership



Plastic Bags



**Migrant
Workers**



**Men with
Beards**



Strip Clubs



**Mandatory
English Classes**



Home Schooling



Euthanasia



UFOs



eCigarettes



Taxation



Love at first sight



Beyonce



North Korea



Homework



Steroids



Jazz



Small Dogs



Veganism



Scientology



Strip Clubs



**Living in the
Country**



Space Exploration



**MMA
Mixed Martial Arts**



**Same Sex
Marriage**



Gambling | Casinos



Adoption

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