

Activity Type

Speaking Activity:
debating, communicative
practice (group work)

Focus

Giving opinions

Disagreeing and giving
counterarguments

Aim

To practice phrases
for giving opinions,
disagreeing and giving
counterarguments.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
worksheet for each
student.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this giving opinions activity, students participate in a debate to help them practice phrases for giving opinions, disagreeing and giving counterarguments.

Procedure

Divide the students into an even number of groups with three or four students in each one.

Write a list of *for* and *against* topics on the board:

Examples:

Animals should not be kept in zoos.

Actors and professional athletes are paid too much.

Boys and girls should study in separate classes.

People are too dependent on smartphones.

Wealthy nations should share their wealth with poorer nations.

Ask the groups to choose which topic they would like to debate.

Two groups must choose the same topic, one arguing for and one against.

Next, give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Go through the instructions and review the language to give opinions, disagree and give counterarguments with the class.

In their groups, students then write their debate topic at the top of the worksheet and prepare *for* or *against* arguments by making notes on the worksheet.

When everyone is ready, two groups come to the front of the class and debate their topic with each group member contributing to the debate.

After each group has presented their argument, the two groups respond to each other by disagreeing and giving counterarguments.

When the debate is over, the class votes for the winner of the debate.



Have the students who voted for the winner explain why that group won.

Two new groups then come to the front of the class and begin the next debate, and so on.

Debate topic:

A. In your group, prepare your *for* or *against* arguments by making notes below. Each group member must contribute to the debate using the language for giving opinions.

Giving Opinions		
In our opinion...	We think that...	We honestly feel that...
The way we see it,...	There's no doubt that...	You can't deny that...
We strongly believe that...	As far as we are concerned,...	We are convinced that...
Notes		

B. Now, present your argument to the opposing group.

C. Now, disagree with your opponent's argument and give counterarguments using the language below. The class will then vote for the winner of the debate.

Disagreeing and Giving Counterarguments	
We totally disagree that...	It may be true that..., but...
I'm afraid we don't agree that...	We see your point on..., but...
While we understand your view, have you considered that...	