

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, group work

Language Focus

Giving opinions
Disagreeing

Aim

To participate in a debate and practice expressions for giving opinions and disagreeing.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this lively teaching activity, students participate in a debate to help them practice expressions for giving opinions and disagreeing.

Procedure

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

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 computers.
Wealthy nations should share their wealth among 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 arguing against.

Next, give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Go through the instructions on the worksheet and review the language for giving opinions and disagreeing with the class.

The students then write their debate topic at the top of the worksheet.

In their groups, students prepare their 'for' or 'against' argument 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 a counter-argument.

When the debate is over, have a class vote to choose the winner of the debate. Have the students who voted for the winner explain why that group won.

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

Debate topic: _____

1. In your group, prepare your FOR or AGAINST argument by making notes below. Each group member must contribute to the debate.
2. Now, present your argument to the opposing group.
3. After you have heard your opponent's argument, disagree and give a counter-argument. The class will then vote for the winner of the debate.

Use the following expressions to give opinions and disagree with your opponent's ideas.

Giving your opinion

In my opinion...

I (don't) think that...

I honestly feel that...

The way I see it,...

There's no doubt that...

You can't deny that...

I strongly believe that...

As far as I'm concerned,...

I'm convinced that...

Disagreeing

I totally disagree that...

It may be true that..., but...

I beg to differ.

I'm afraid I don't agree that...

I see your point on... , but...

I don't think so.

Notes

