Starting a Debate

Formal arguments in English are called “Debates”. In a debate, two teams try to convince a judge or audience that their view or opinion is the best. The topic of a debate can be about anything!

Vocabulary:
- debate
- topic
- statement
- opinion
- agree
- disagree
- affirmative
- negative
- constructive speech
- attack

Key Expressions:
1. In my opinion, ...

2. I believe that...

3. I have (two, three) main points. First, ...

4. In conclusion, ...

5. I understand what you are saying, but...

6. I disagree with you because...
Debate Topics!

Good debate topics are superlative statements. “A is better than B.” and “C is the best D.” are good forms to follow. Write down the examples on the board, and then create a few of your own!

Examples:

1. 

2. 

3. 

Create Your Own:

1. 

2. 

3. 

Constructive Speeches

Constructive speeches clearly state your opinions on the debate topic. Start by choosing the affirmative or negative side (Do you agree or disagree with the topic?) and then write down your opinion for that side. Come up with three reasons why your opinion is right.

Your Opinion: 

Reasons Why:

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