

Language, Literacy and Communication

Debate

1. Choose one of the following topics;

- Teachers should be replaced with computers (**Very relevant now!**)
- Zoos are beneficial to animals.
- There should be a change in the voting age.
- Parents should be punished if their child makes a mistake.
- Children should have privacy.
- Apps, gaming machines, phones and computers can become an addiction.

If you think of a different, maybe trickier statement you would like to explore, **ask your grown-ups for permission first.**

2. Find a partner to argue against. This can be a sibling, a grown up in your home or even a neighbour (you can argue over the fence or over the road, make sure you keep your distance from each other!

3. Flip a coin. Find out who will be arguing for and who will be arguing against.

4. Go away and spend around a week (**NOT** all day, every day. Maybe half an hour or 45 minutes a day) researching your arguments. Use personal opinions, statistics and evidence to back up your point. Has anyone written or spoken about this before? Use these to argue your point. **Use the six thinking hats approach (picture below).**

Write all your arguments on a big piece of paper. If you don't have a big piece a few A4 pieces will be fine. Use different colour pen to organise your arguments into opinions, facts, and statistics.

Consider the arguments your opponent may come up with and prepare rebuttals*.

5. Prepare your arguments and rebuttals on revision cards (small pieces of paper). Practise your arguments in a mirror.

6. Now is time for your debate! Your debate needs to be done in front of an audience. This can be your grown ups and the rest of your family.

- Each side of the debate gets two minutes to introduce their argument to the audience.

- Once each side has spoken, both sides have two minutes to prepare rebuttals. This is why it is handy to think ahead - you can order your arguments and maybe remember them off the top of your head if you really know your arguments!

- You have 5 minutes to debate, **GO!**

Your audience chooses the winner. This is normally the person who has presented the best argument.

*A rebuttal is an argument you come up with that gives reasoning or evidence to weaken the argument of your opponent.