

How Do We Debate

There are different formats for debate, but most have a particular statement that they are debating. For instance:

- Voting in general elections should be compulsory.
- Drugs should be legalised.
- Religion is harmful to society.
- All immigration into the UK should be stopped.
- Mobile phones are harming our health.
- Young people should be able to leave school at the age of 15.

This is called the 'motion' and will sometimes start with "This house believes..." ('the house' is the place where the debate is happening). For instance,

The motion for this debate is:

"This house believes that young people should be able to leave school at the age of 15."

One person or team will be agreeing and arguing **FOR** the statement, while the other person or team will be arguing **AGAINST** the statement.

Each person or team needs to make sure they provide a good argument for their view: they need to provide good reasons and try to convince everyone they are correct, they can't just say, "well, that's what I think!"

Good phrases to use in a debate:

I believe

On the other hand...

The evidence suggests....

The opposition is wrong because...