

A COURTEOUS DEBATE - ROUND ONE



Courtesy is:

- * Showing politeness in what you do and what you say.
- * Thinking about the needs and feelings of others and being mindful of what will make them happy.
- * Making people feel respected and valued.

Synonyms:

- * civility
- * graciousness
- * chivalry

Important Phrase:

- * Love your neighbour as yourself.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

**To learn how to present our points of view in a courteous manner.
To understand that others may have counter-arguments that must be listened to with courtesy and respect.**

Suggested Resources:

The availability of a fully-briefed TA is preferable for this lesson.

Script:

Explain to children that in this lesson they will be preparing to take part in a debate. What is a debate? Children should understand that a debate is a discussion where two groups talk, giving different views about a topic. A good debate needs to be well-prepared, i.e. children need to think carefully about their opinion and why they hold it. Good debates include lots of strong arguments that defend the groups' opinions. Explore the word argument. What sometimes happens in an argument? Does a good debate include shouting over each other? Think about how participants should conduct themselves in a debate. Show children a clip of a debate online. How does each side show respect to the other side, even when they disagree with their point of view? How do pupils conduct themselves? What does this enable them to focus on (i.e. the topic of the debate)?

Suggested Activities:

Next week, children will debate a motion of the teacher's choice (motions could include: every house should be entitled to a free computer; school uniform improves behaviour; and trips to the theatre should be free for children). Or you may wish to debate a topic specific to another area of your curriculum. The purpose of this week is to prepare for the debate. Discuss the motion as a class. Who agrees? Who disagrees? Why? Can anyone think of reasons to support each side? As groups of children disagree with others, mediate the discussion to focus on how to respectfully explain why they disagree and what they believe. Next, divide children into equal groups to debate the motion: those in favour and those against with an adult assigned to each group to help generate points to support or oppose the motion. Encourage children to think about possible rebuttals and how they might counter them. The groups should assign pairs of children to make each point during the debate. The first pair should open the argument and the final pair summarise the points. Children should write down their points, and practise their delivery for homework.



Plenary:

Explain that in next week's lesson children will participate in the debate. At the front of their minds, they should be thinking about the best way to convey their argument in a powerful and respectful way. Teacher and TA should role-model part of the debate,

Character Coaching

Meaningful Praise:

Debates can be challenging activities because we want to make sure that everyone understands our point of view and we must oppose the other person's opinion in a respectful and thoughtful way. You have shown to me that you have thought hard about how to do this and are ready to take part in the debate.

each taking it in turns to respond to the other's points. Emphasise the format of the debate (taking turns) and that the focus of the debate should be on the content, rather than the person on the other side. For example, adults could demonstrate how children should not behave in a debate.

Guidance:

Read through your notes again to make sure that you have presented your points clearly and that you will be able to present your views in a courteous way. How are you going to respond when someone from the other side of the debate disagrees with you?

Correction:

That comment was hurtful. How could you express your disagreement in a courteous way?

