

# How do we **Debate**?

There are different types of 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 and that it's wrong.

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 that that's what they think.

Good phrases to use in a debate:

*I believe ....*

*On the other hand...*

*The evidence suggests....*

