

ENGLISH 8: NOTES ON HOLDING A DEBATE IN THE CLASSROOM

1. Introduce the concept of a debate to ensure students understand what it is.
2. **Teams:** Divide the Class into Two Teams: FOR and AGAINST. You can also have a small team to do the debate and an audience/jury who will vote.
3. **Teamwork:** discuss how the team should work together. Each must nominate a **CAPTAIN** to lead them, delegate responsibilities and keep order and focus.
4. **Planning:** In small groups, each Team should research the topic using as wide a range of resources as possible. They should present this to the Team to decide how to use their information and how to structure and support their argument. Each Team should also think about what the other team might be planning in terms of a response for or against the motion and try to outwit them, or conjecture how they might be approaching the topic so they can gain a lead over them.
5. **The Debate:** there are many detailed rules about the format of a Debate which you may or may not wish to adhere to:
 - a. 6 minutes for each side to make a **Presentation**
 - b. 5 minutes to assess and come up with more ideas
 - c. 4 minutes for each side to offer a **Rebuttal** to each others' arguments
 - d. 3 minute to assess and plan
 - e. 3 minutes for each side to offer a **Response**
 - f. 1 minute assessment and planning
 - g. 2 minutes for each side to **Summarise** their argument
 - h. 5 minutes for voting
6. You can either follow the above formal structure or create a more informal set up. Unless you have appointed a Judge, the teacher needs to oversee the proceedings, above all to ensure it does not turn into a free-for-all shouting match.