

4.1

Debate on an Issue of Identity

Objectives

- To introduce students to the basic structure of a formal debate or to allow them to practice skills that they have already gained.
- To encourage students to order their thoughts and arguments and develop their powers of persuasion.
- To help students gain confidence in public speaking in a supportive environment.

Previous Preparation

- You may wish to involve other members of the school community by holding the debate during assembly or inviting other classes in your year group to attend.
- This activity will probably take longer than a lesson.
- The students should have decided in advance the Motion for their debate and allocated the various roles required to conduct the debate.
- Here are some suggestions for Motions to give an idea of suitable possibilities (however students are free to choose their own if they prefer):
 - This House believes that speaking the official language of the host country is a pre-requisite for citizenship.
 - This House believes that newcomers to a host country should bring their children up in accordance with the identity and culture of the country they have left behind.
 - This House believes that it is impossible to fully assimilate the new cultural identity of a new country.
 - This House believes that people are happier if they stay at home.
 - This House believes that variety is the spice of life when it comes to identity.

Introduction

The Chairperson should organise the seating arrangements and introduce the Motion.

Development

The debate should take place according to the Resource Sheet – Notes on holding a Debate, or a simplified version.

Conclusion

The whole group should vote to indicate whether they are for or against the Motion and feedback on how the debate went, what adjustments they might make for future debates etc.

Extension

The class could produce a 'This house believes that' web page on Gemin-i Plus with a report on the class debate including promotional materials and ideas used to argue both sides of the case as well as the result of the debate.

