

<p>Students should go to school year-round.</p> <p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is said that over the summer, students forget half of what they learnt during the year. • Students would finish their studies earlier and be better prepared for an ever more competitive job market. • (your own idea) 	<p>Students should go to school year-round.</p> <p>Disagree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If students don't get a break, they will burn out and learn less. • Children develop key social skills during the summer. • (your own idea)
<p>All museums should be free.</p> <p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We provide free basic education and museums are meant to educate the general public. • The higher the price of museum tickets, the fewer people will go. • (your own idea) 	<p>All museums should be free.</p> <p>Disagree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If people pay for something, they respect and value it more. • Museums need money to buy new works of art, create new exhibitions, etc. • (your own idea)
<p>Professional athletes are paid too much money.</p> <p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with much more important jobs, such as doctors, are paid much less. • With such high salaries, they become bad role models for young people, spending all their money on fancy cars, houses, etc. • (your own idea) 	<p>Professional athletes are paid too much money.</p> <p>Disagree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few people in the world can be elite athletes. • If we lower athletes' salaries, the money will just go to club owners, corporate board members, etc. • (your own idea)
<p>We should all be vegetarian.</p> <p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can get all the nutrients we need to be perfectly healthy without eating meat. • It's selfish and unethical to kill animals for food. • (your own idea) 	<p>We should all be vegetarian.</p> <p>Disagree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our bodies have evolved to eat meat. • Not everyone has the time and money to follow a vegetarian diet. • (your own idea)

Activity

Group work: speaking

Aim

To focus on justifying opinions, agreeing/disagreeing and negotiation

Exam skill

Speaking Part 3, with a focus on interaction

Preparation

Make two copies of the worksheet. Cut up the cards.

Time

One hour

Lesson link

Unit 5, page 72

Teaching notes

Procedure

- › Organise the students into groups of three. Assign the following roles: Student A, agree; Student B, disagree; Student C, mediator. Explain that Students A and B are going to debate a topic and Student C will act as a mediator.
- › Explain to the students that this activity will help them develop important exam skills for Speaking Part 3. Note that in this part of the exam students are graded on their ability to sustain an interaction, which includes justifying an opinion, agreeing and/or disagreeing and reaching a decision through negotiation.
- › Give Students A and B their corresponding card. Student C, the mediator, gets both cards. Students A and B must completely agree or disagree, no matter their real opinion. The mediator must find common ground/compromise.
- › Give the students some time to think through the arguments and add their own ideas.
- › During the debate, Student C keeps the time and moderates, giving Students A and B one minute for each argument and counter argument.
- › After the debate, the mediator briefly sums up the ideas discussed and then puts forward possible compromises. At this point, Students A and B must come away from their rigid positions and work with the moderator to find common ground.
- › The students then change roles, with a new person acting as the mediator. Give them new cards and the activity is repeated.
- › While the students do the activity, circulate and provide support if necessary. Make a note of any errors you would like to address later.