

JUNIOR DEBATING CLASSES 7

Session 3: Training for constructing counterarguments

1. Comments on worksheets from the previous session
2. Review of the model
3. Developing counterarguments

Students in groups / pairs: each group resp. pair draws arbitrarily one argument to which they have to build a counterargument.

Suggestion for arguments which could be used:

- *“Advertising at school should be allowed because the school could make money from this. This would help the school to build more facilities.”*
- *“Advertising at school should NOT be allowed because schools are for learning. Advertisements at school will distract students from learning.”*
- *“Every school day should start with half an hour of sports because this refreshes the brain in the morning. This makes all students learn better.”*
- *“School days should NOT start every morning with half an hour sports. The first period is best for learning and should not be wasted on sports.”*
- *“We should stop being friend with someone who lied to us because speaking the truth is the most important thing. If a friend lies, one cannot trust her anymore.”*
- *“We should NOT stop being friend with someone who lied to us because everybody makes sometimes mistakes. Friendship is too precious to give it up because of only one lie.”*
- *“Animals should be kept in zoos because this gives them a better life. In a zoo, they get food and everything they need.”*
- *“Animals should NOT be kept in zoos because this is against their nature. They need to be free.”*
- *“The internet brings more harm than good because it takes a lot of your time. You will have no more time to meet your friends.”*
- *“The internet brings more good than harm because on the internet you can find all of the information you need in life. It makes you learn better in school.”*
- *“Homework should NOT be given at the weekends because after school, students need to relax. After the weekend they will come back to school refreshed and will learn better.”*
- *“Homework should be given at the weekends because it keeps the mind busy. Otherwise students will forget what they learnt during the week.”*
- *“Working in groups is better than working alone, because four people have more ideas than just one. This makes students more creative.”*
- *“Working alone is better than working in groups, because in a group students often fight each other. These in-fights prevent students from learning.”*

4. Presentation of group work

Teacher gives the argument – the group responds with their counterargument

Teacher collects the worksheets.