

Worksheet 3 [3 pages]

DEBATE TOPICS FOR JUNIOR DEBATING

A topic for a debate has to be controversial; it should be meaningful and challenging. It is imperative that both positions of a debate topic are of equal importance. Reasonable arguments for both sides must be obtainable.

Excluded from the choices should be those topics which might be offensive to a group of people or which might violate a taboo. School directors and teachers know best which topics are acceptable in their particular school environment and which are not.

The following debate topics are suggestions. Surely there are many more potential debate topics that teachers might choose.

SCHOOL TOPICS/EDUCATIONAL TOPICS:

- ▶ “iPads should replace books at school—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Students should not have homework over the weekend—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Reading books is more important for school kids than watching movies—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Working in a team at school is better than working alone—yes or no?”
- ▶ “High school students should not be required to wear a school uniform—yes or no?”
- ▶ “All schools should be co-educational—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Children under twelve years old should not be allowed on Facebook—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Chatrooms on the internet are harmful for small children—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Watching TV has a bad influence on small kids—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Every student should be required to participate in at least one extracurricular activity each semester—yes or no?”
- ▶ “School should start in the morning at ten o’clock and not at eight—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Teenagers’ self-determination is more important than directions by their parents—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Parents should use tracking apps to monitor their teenage kids’ locations—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Schools should give a prize once a year for the most polite student—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Boarding schools are more beneficial for students than other schools—yes or no?”
- ▶ “All students should learn an instrument—yes or no?”
- ▶ “School should start every morning with half an hour of physical exercise—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Lessons about happiness should be taught at school—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Lessons about ‘Dealing with Conflict and Violence’ should be part of the school curriculum—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Tests at school are not beneficial for learning—yes or no?”
- ▶ “All students from 10th grade on should do one month of volunteer service in the community—yes or no?”

GENDER TOPICS:

- ▶ “Women should not work outside of the home when they get married and have babies—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Women should not change their family name when they get married—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Housewives deserve to be paid for their work at home—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Women should have 51% of all leadership positions in the society—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Girls and boys should be treated in the same way—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Girls and boys should play sports in the same teams—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Everybody should learn to cook—yes or no?”

ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS/HEALTH TOPICS:

- ▶ “Plastic bags should be banned—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Smoking should be banned in all public places—yes or no?”
- ▶ “There should be a high tax on sugary soft drinks—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Vehicles’ access to the city centre of small towns should be restricted—yes or no?”
- ▶ “The school cafeteria should not sell junk food—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Advertisements for junk food should be forbidden—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Tourism does more harm than good—yes or no?”

SPORTS TOPICS:

- ▶ “Boxing as a sport should be forbidden—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Football superstars do not deserve their high salaries—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Football clubs should be punished when their fans act violently during football games—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Olympic games (or: The World Football Championship) are a waste of money—yes or no?”

PERSONALITY TOPICS/ETHICAL TOPICS:

- ▶ “We should stop being friends with people who lie to us—yes or no?”
- ▶ “A single person can change the world—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Personality is more important than good looks—yes or no?”
- ▶ “It is better to be kind than to be smart—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Animals should not be kept in zoos—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Journalists should not be allowed to write about the private lives of famous people—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Scientists should not be allowed to use animals for testing new medicines—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Doctors should always tell their patients the truth about severe diseases—yes or no?”
- ▶ “We should give more money for space exploration—yes or no?”

SOCIETAL TOPICS:

- ▶ “Doctors are more important for our country than engineers (or lawyers, or journalists)—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Radio stations should only play local music and not international music—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Living in the countryside is better than living in a city—yes or no?”
- ▶ “The legal driving age should be raised to 21—yes or no?”
- ▶ “All Arabic writing should be in Roman letters—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Europe should open its borders to refugees—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Beauty contests should be banned—yes or no?”

FUNNY TOPICS FOR WARMING-UP:

- ▶ “It is more fun to be a teacher than to be a student—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Cats are better pets than dogs—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Teachers should be replaced by teaching robots—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Students should be allowed to bring their pets to school—yes or no?”
- ▶ “School hours should change to 12PM until 6PM—yes or no?”
- ▶ “Parents should be able to watch their kids in class by video—yes or no?”
- ▶ “The weather should be the same every day—yes or no?”