

JUNIOR DEBATING CLASSES 7

Session 4: Teaching and Practising useful Debate Expressions

1. Comments on worksheets from the previous session
2. Introduction of useful Debate Expressions

Such expressions help:

- To sound more professional
- Shows that one listens to the others
(especially through the partly-disagree expressions)
- Makes the speaker feel more confident
(gives a template how to phrase a sentence)
- It stands for the idea that no position is ever fully wrong or fully right

Every student gets a list of such expressions (see worksheet no. 9).

Suggestion: The teacher highlights by a marker three of them for every student to use (at least she should use these three).

3. Exercise:

Teacher gives students an argument and asks them to respond with a counter-argument by using these expressions.

For example: "Every student should learn a music instrument at school because this helps to reduce stress." / "Students should not be obliged to learn a music instrument at school because if somebody does not like music he/she will not learn it well."

As a feedback, the teacher might particularly focus on the debaters' respectfulness.

4. Remark on words to be avoided in a debate:

"all" / "always" / "never" should be avoided because to every generalisation there is an exception. The opposing team can easily pick up statements with such words, for example by saying:

"In general, you might be right, but this is not true in all cases, for example..."

5. Debate in front of the class

between two teams with arguments and counterarguments by using Debate Expressions.