

## Class Debate!

Children and young people can use their voice to speak up in a number of different ways.

One way is to learn when, why and how they can get involved with democracy, and how they can influence the rules and decisions that are made that affect their lives every day.

This task will help your pupils begin to understand the value of being able to understand and debate a topic when trying to communicate their message, and persuade others to agree with them.

## Time

35+ Minutes

## Objectives

- Develop vocabulary and oral skills
- Learn how to write and communicate for a varied audience
- Compare and contrast arguments

## Materials

- A whiteboard/smart board to note discussion points for reference
- (Optional) Laptops for further research

## Step One – Before Class

Pick a topic from the list below, this will be the topic your class debates.

- Is a school uniform an important part of education?
- Is it right to bully a bully?
- Should children under 11 be allowed mobile phones?
- Should school lunches should be half the time so that there is more time to learn?
- Should smoking be banned in the UK?

## Step Two – 10 minutes

Discuss the topic with your class as a group – create a list of points related to the topic that pupils can use as a reference when planning their own debate statements.

*Top Tip: Make sure that the 'For' and 'Against' points are fairly balanced!*

## Step Three – 10 – 15 minutes

Split your class into pairs – with one pupil being ‘For’ the topic and the other being ‘Against’. They should plan their arguments individually using the thought shower from the earlier discussions as their starting point. Encourage them to add their own ideas to their arguments too!

Depending on the ability in your class these can take the form of either bullet points or a more detailed speech.

## Step Four – 5 minutes

Ask the pairs to briefly discuss, compare and contrast their arguments. Encourage them to challenge each other’s points by asking ‘Why?’.

## Step Five – 10 minutes

Bring the class together and ask each pair to share their best ‘For’ and ‘Against’ point. Discuss the varying opinions and then once all points have been made, ask for a show of hands to make a final class decision.

*Top tip: Tootoot schools can use tootmood to gather votes. Exercises like this are a fantastic way of engaging your pupils with tootoot’s latest feature.*

Tell us what you’re up to! Share the outcomes of your class activities with us on Twitter and Instagram, tag us using [@tootootofficial](https://twitter.com/tootootofficial) and [#PupilVoiceWeek](https://twitter.com/PupilVoiceWeek). Or, you can email us your pictures using [info@tootoot.co.uk](mailto:info@tootoot.co.uk)