

# ACTIVITY: DEBATING GAMES

**Objective:** Debating games can develop critical thinking and communication skills, while simultaneously encouraging young people to consider any opposing views to their own.

## Game Ideas:

### 1. I Couldn't Disagree More :

- Give students a statement and ask them to give reasons why they disagree with it. Make sure the statements are difficult to disagree with!

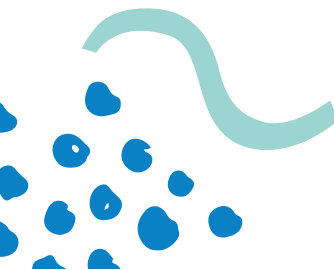
Examples:

- *Lying is always wrong*
- *War is never justified*
- *We should always obey the law*

### 2. Sales Game:

Divide into groups and give each student a basic object (i.e. a toothbrush; a pencil; a cup; a scarf). Each student should try to convince the others within their group to 'buy' their object. When each student has done their best to 'sell' their item, the group can vote on who made the best pitch.

Optional Final Round: The winner from each group can then have a final round, with different objects, to see what the overall winning object is.





### **3. Stranded :**

Form students into pairs. Let them know that they are all going on holiday. Pupils should select ONE thing that they would pack, and then tell their partner.

Once they've all agreed, tell them they are travelling by boat. But a huge storm sinks the boat! The students must swim to a nearby island but they can only agree to take one of the two items. Once all decisions have been made, ask a few pairs to feedback to the group on their decisions and how they finally agreed.

### **4. Balloon Debate:**

Divide students up into groups of 4-6. Each student should choose a famous person that they will 'become' during this activity.

Each group of students finds themselves in a hot air balloon but it is damaged and will crash if it doesn't lose a lot weight soon. Someone must be thrown overboard!

Each student will give a 30-45 second explanation of why they should be allowed to stay in the balloon. After all arguments have been given, the students should vote on who will be thrown out. This can be repeated until only one student in each balloon remains.

