

# ACTIVITY: DEBATE TOURNAMENT

**Objective:** To encourage critical thinking, research, and public speaking skills among secondary school students through a competitive debate tournament.

## Activity Steps:

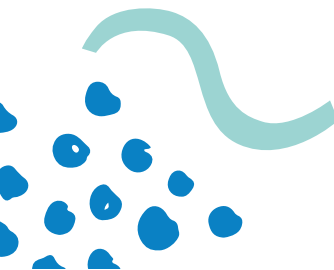
### 1. Introduction:

- Start by explaining the purpose of the debate tournament and the importance of effective communication and critical thinking.

### 2. Team Formation:

- Divide the students into teams, with each team consisting of 2-3 members.
- Assign each team a debate topic.

### 3. Research and Preparation:

- Allow teams time to research their assigned topics and gather relevant information to support their arguments.
  - Provide access to library resources or internet research if available.
  - Teams prepare their arguments and rebuttals.
  - Encourage them to organize their points logically and anticipate counter arguments.
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#### 4. Debate Rounds :

- Conduct multiple debate rounds, with each round lasting 15-20 minutes (adjust as needed).
- Follow a structured debate format, such as:
  - **Opening statements** (Team A, Team B).
  - **Rebuttals** – responding to the other team's opening statement (Team A, Team B).
  - **Cross-examination** (Team A questions Team B and vice versa).
  - **Closing statements** (Team A, Team B).

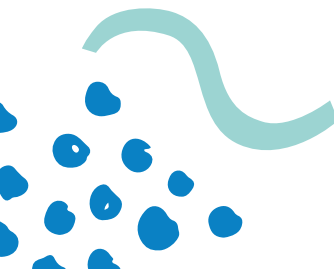
#### 5. Judges' Evaluation :

- Have a panel of teachers or another group of students serve as judges.
- Judges evaluate each team's performance based on criteria like argumentation, evidence, rebuttals, and presentation skills.
- Provide constructive feedback to the teams.

#### 6. Finals :

- Select the top-performing teams from the earlier rounds to compete in the finals.
- Conduct a final debate round with a new topic.

#### 7. Award Ceremony :

- Announce the winners and present awards or certificates.
  - Acknowledge the effort and participation of all students.
  - Conduct a group discussion about the experience.
  - Ask students to reflect on what they learned and how they can apply their debating skills in everyday life.
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## DEBATE TOPIC IDEAS

1. Is digital technology making children's lives better?
  2. Is it time to abolish the Monarchy?
  3. Is AI a good thing?
  4. Is homeschooling a better alternative to traditional schooling?
  5. Should you require a licence to have children?
  6. Should the school day start later to accommodate teenagers' sleep patterns?
  7. Environmental studies should be a required subject at school.
  8. Should the minimum age for social media platforms be raised to 18?
  9. Should the death penalty be reinstated?
  10. Should we shut down zoos?
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