



IS PLASTIC SURGERY USEFUL? DISCUSSING A CONTEMPORARY CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC WITH DEBATE TECHNIQUE

Aims:

Improving speaking skills in English, reading authentic texts about the topic in English to help collecting ideas, working in groups with classmates and discussing a problem that you are all interested in, learning how to make strong arguments, how to argue in an intelligent way and to see how you can express your ideas.



Task 1

Put those arguments on the board that you have collected together with your group last time. Try to list them next to the topics we agreed on and that are written in the middle of the board. Supporters use the left side of the board under the PRO, opponents use the right side under the CON heading. You can also put quotations from the texts you read. Judges at the back of the class have to be ready to listen to the speakers and give their points to evaluate the performance of each debater on their record sheets.



Task 2

Using your arguments on the board or from your own notes the first speaker from the supporter group should summarize your points in about five minutes. Use the thesis sentence as a starting point and collect the reasons why you support it. Don't forget that you need to mention all the basic arguments, because the second speaker will not have the chance to come up with new ideas. If you have any questions to the other group do not hesitate to ask them. The other group has to take notes during the speech, so that they can react to the mentioned ideas. Questions will be answered by the third debater.



Task 3

Members of the opponent group can discuss in maximum two minutes how to react to the speech of the first supporter. It has to be a speech all that the members' following speeches will be based on, so choose and arrange the arguments very carefully.



Task 4

The first opponent has to tell his/her speech in about five minutes, which should include all the points the opponents want to elaborate on in the following speeches. Start with negating the thesis sentence. Don't forget that you need to mention all the arguments, because the second speaker will not have the chance to come up with new ideas.





Task 5

Now, supporters have the possibility to chat about the next speech for two minutes. It has to react to the first opponent's speech and has to be related to the first speech of your group.



Task 6

The second speaker of the supporter's group has to stand up, tell his/her speech in about four minutes. In this speech you need to include and explicate the strongest arguments of the first speaker. Use a lot of examples to make your thesis more expressive and more persuading.



Task 7

Opponents have got two minutes to collect the most important counterarguments responding to the second supporter's points. Try to highlight the most persuading points.



Task 8

The second opponent debater has to choose from the basic ideas of the first speech of your group and has to emphasize them. He/she can talk for about 4 minutes. No new ideas or points can be mentioned.



Task 9

Before the third debater's speech the supporter group has to summarize all the arguments you have already claimed and you also need to come up with the counterarguments reacting the opponents. This will be the time when you have to answer the first debater's questions, so prepare for this, too.



Task 10

As you are the last debater on the supporters' side, your task is to summarize your points, to compare and to contrast your ideas with the opponents' views and finally to try to persuade the judges that in this topic your arguments were stronger, so you have been more skilled in this debate session. You also have to answer the questions of the first opponent - try to reply in a way that supports your idea and prove that you cannot be distracted by cross questions.



Task 11

Before the third debater's speech the opponent group has also got the chance to summarize all the arguments drawn up by themselves and the other group. Elaborate on the questions asked by the other group.





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Task 12

As you are the last debater on the opponents' side, your task is to summarize your points, compare and contrast your ideas with the supporters' views and finally to try to persuade the judges that in this topic your arguments were stronger, so you were better in this debate session. You also have to answer the questions of the first supporter, trying to reply in a way that supports your idea and prove that you cannot be distracted by cross questions.



Task 13

The judges have to sum up their points on their sheets and discuss which group was better at debating, which side was more convincing. They also have to choose the best debater who is not necessarily a member of the winner group. Judges have to give reason why they chose the winner group and the best debater.



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