

Debate setup for Language PAL

Step 1

Choose a debate topic. Note: take care with choosing particularly divisive topics surrounding religion, culture, or politics. Bath has a diverse student population from various socio-cultural backgrounds, and certain topics could be controversial depending on the group.

Step 2

Invite attendees to think of useful phrases and vocabulary and write them on the board. The more examples that they can think of the better – this will help them to practice complex structures in your language.

Step 3

Split the group into two. A fun way to do this is to ask attendees whether they agree or disagree with the statement and then to flip the two groups. (e.g. in the debate “cats are better than dogs”, all of the students who prefer dogs have to argue for the cats).

Step 4

Set some ground rules. Good rules to follow are:

- Be respectful to each other. It's only a game!
- No interruptions
- Keep answers concise and clear
- Provide a time limit (we have fun buzzers you could use to enforce this!)

Step 5

Give attendees 10 minutes to research their topic. Encourage them to do this in the target language, and plan what they'll say using some of the structures written on the board.

Step 6

Debate! If you have a group of 8 attendees, the debate could run as follows:

Group	Person	Time	Content
Group A	Person 1	2 minutes	Point 1
Group B	Any	1 minute	Counter point
Group B	Person 1	2 minutes	Point 1
Group A	Any	1 minute	Counter point

Continue until everybody has spoken.

If there is time, invite each group to outline a concluding statement.

As the Leader, you get to decide which team is the winner!