ESU
DEBATE-ABLE
TEACHING
RESOURCES

LESSON TWO

Objectives

Students can use 'PEEL' to structure an argument

Introduction – Where do you stand? (10 mins)

Create some space in the classroom. Assign one side of the space as the 'Agree' side, and the other side as the 'Disagree' side. Call out a topic, (examples in the hints and tips – for more, see the list of motions) and ask the students who agree to go to the 'Agree' side, and the students who disagree to go to the 'Disagree' side. Students who are unsure can remain in the middle.

Once students have chosen a side, ask a student on the 'Agree' side to provide a reason why they chose that side. Then ask a student on the 'Disagree' side to respond to that reason. Then repeat the process asking a student on the 'Disagree' side to provide a reason why they chose that side, and ask a student on the 'Agree' side to respond to that person. Repeat for as many new ideas as the students have. After several reasons have been provided, allow students to move between the positions (from 'Agree' to 'Disagree', 'Neutral' to 'Agree' etc.) if they have changed their minds. Ask the students who move which argument convinced them to change position.

Main activity – PEEL Pairs Debates (20 mins)

Recap the need for justifying opinions. Use the 'Why? Because…' prompt to reinforce this. Show the acronym P-E-E-L, explaining that it stands for 'Point + Explanation + Example', linking Point to 'Why?' and Explanation and Example to "Because…". Together, these explain why your point is true. L stand for "Link" ¬¬- connecting your point back to the debate topic, and showing why the point is important.

In pairs, students should develop a P-E-E-L argument for and against a topic. You can use topics from the earlier "Where do You Stand" activity, or introduce new topics. Students can then present their arguments to another pair of students (in groups of four).

Differentiation

You can teach only P-E-E in this session, and introduce "Link" at a later stage.

Students who develop their arguments more quickly can work on short speeches of two or more P-E-E-L arguments.

Hints and Tips

Cats are better than dogs
Flight is a better superpower than invisibility
Everyone should have pet
We should ban homework
We should wear school uniforms
Parents should always be able to see everything you are doing online
You should be allowed to play video games on school nights
Fast food outlets should not be allowed near schools
We should make cannabis legal
Living in a town is better than living in the countryside
Politicians should pay more attention to the North of England