

Tabletopics: Debate



Summary

Debates allows all participants to speak regardless of format and length of time. Use questions from original Tabletopics, questions you've made up, or some of the suggested topics in the document below. Youth may hesitate to speak but they love debates. It is most exciting if a debate happens at the last session where the participants will be up against the parents; this also ensures each participant has the opportunity to speak in front of their parents. Two participants choose 'yes' or 'no' sides and are then asked a question; they then support 'yes' or 'no', depending on their decision.

It is most exciting if the debate happens at the last session, so youth can be against their parents. If you hold debates for your last session, to make it easier, you can use the questions from the Tabletopics run in Session 7, but don't tell the participants that those questions will be repeated in your last session. Push them to continue for the duration of a table topic.

Instructions

1. Choose two participants, or have one selected participant select an adult adversary.
2. Let the participant choose either the 'yes' side or the 'no' side (they may let their adult adversary choose as well).
3. Ask a single question to the two debate participants.
4. Let the 'yes' participant answer first.
5. Then let the 'no' participant deliver their rebuttal.

Sample Debate Topics

- Should self-improvement be a lifelong goal?
- Is 14 the right age to allow people to get their Learner's license?
- Should we lower the voting age to 16?
- Is reading a good hobby?
- Should A students be rewarded by their parents?
- Is confidence one of the most important things to have?
- Should a legal curfew be put into effect?