

In small groups, read the tasks on the following slides, write your own versions, and then compare them with the teacher's examples.

**EXAMPLE OF A DEBATE:
“VOTING AT THE AGE OF 16”**



INTRODUCTION:

Begin by clearly stating your position on the topic and providing some context or background information.

INTRODUCTION

EXAMPLE:

"In a democratic society, voting is crucial to make sure everyone's voice is heard in politics. However, many young people, especially those aged 16 and 17, are left out of the process. It's time to include them by allowing 16-year-olds to vote so that they can become active participants in our democracy."

MAIN POINTS:

Present 2 or 3 main points that support your thesis. Provide evidence and examples.

MAIN POINTS

EXAMPLE:

“Research in developmental psychology has shown that by the age of 16, young people possess the cognitive abilities necessary to make informed decisions, including political ones. They are capable of understanding complex issues, evaluating evidence and forming independent opinions.”

REBUTTAL:

First, acknowledge and clarify the opponent's argument, then present a counter-argument, ideally with evidence. Explain why your point of view is more valid or why the opponent's argument is false or incomplete.

REBUTTAL

EXAMPLE:

“Group A says that 16-year-olds have the mental ability to vote wisely, but this ignores the differences in maturity among them. Giving all 16-year-olds the right to vote could lead to uninformed or impulsive decisions.”

ASKING QUESTIONS:

A part of a rebuttal is also asking questions to the opponents.

ASKING QUESTIONS

EXAMPLE:

"If 16-year-olds aren't mature enough to vote, why can they work, pay taxes, and take on other big responsibilities in many places?"

CONCLUSION:

Summarise your main points and restate your thesis to reinforce your position.

CONCLUSION

EXAMPLE:

“In conclusion, lowering the voting age to 16 is important for a more inclusive democracy. Allowing young people to vote makes our democracy stronger and ensures it represents everyone. It’s time to give 16-year-olds the chance to help shape our country’s future.”