

# Bring on the World

## Day 5 Morning session: Thinking about competition

### Activity 2: The Great Debate

**Time required: 1 hour**

#### **You will need**

- A set of role cards (below)
- Blank A5 cards (one per pupil)

#### **Aims**

- To consider an issue from different perspectives.
- To give pupils the opportunity to express and justify opinions.
- To encourage pupils to critically evaluate views other than their own.

#### **What to do**

Hold a formal debate of the motion: 'This house believes that competition should be banned.'  
Select pupils (some of the more able ones – this is an opportunity for gifted and talented pupils) to perform the formal roles of the debate:

- The chairperson
- 3 speakers for the motion
- 3 speakers against the motion.

Give the role cards to the 6 speakers. Ask them to read these and add points about what they will say in the debate. Make it clear that you understand that this viewpoint may not be the one they really hold, but that for the purposes of the debate they should put this one across. As they are playing a role, they do not need to give a balanced view.

Give the chairperson their role card. Make sure they understand what they need to do, as they will be running the debate. Explain that the chairperson is impartial.

Meanwhile, ask the rest of the class to write down on a blank card whether they are for or against the motion. They should then write the reasons for their view. Pupils should be encouraged to think of more than one reason if they can, referring to the brainstorming from

Activity 1.

The chairperson then opens the debate and runs it as directed on their role card.

When the chairperson puts the motion to the vote, make it clear to pupils that they are free to change their minds from their original position. Encourage them to make up their own minds and discourage pupils from voting for or with friends.

Afterwards, give pupils a short time to reflect on what they have learned from the debate. Ask pupils to say how their views have been either changed or reinforced.

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## Worksheet: The Great Debate

### Role cards

#### Chairperson

It is your job to run the debate and ensure that everyone speaks at the correct times. You also need to keep order, so that only one person speaks at a time. You may need to call 'order, order', but beware of doing it so often that no one takes any notice! Open the debate by reading out the motion: 'This house believes that competition should be banned.'

Then call the speakers in turn, as follows:

- 1st speaker for the motion
- 1st speaker against the motion
- 2nd speaker for the motion
- 2nd speaker against the motion
- 3rd speaker for the motion
- 3rd speaker against the motion

Next ask the other pupils if they have any points or questions. Make sure that one speaker for the motion and one speaker against the motion are given a chance to answer any questions.

Call the 1st speaker for the motion and then the 1st speaker against the motion to sum up briefly.

Put the motion to the vote. Read out the motion again and ask pupils to vote 'for' or 'against'. The 6 speakers should vote too. Ask if there is anyone who wishes to abstain (that is, say they can't make a decision).

Count up the votes, and call out the results as follows:

Those for the motion (give number)

Those against the motion (give number)

Abstentions (that is, those who can't make a decision - give number).

Say whether the motion has been carried (that is, whether most of the group have voted for it or not).

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1st speaker for the motion

You have never won any kind of sporting competition in your life. In fact you are normally last in sporting events. Try to talk about how this makes you feel.

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2nd speaker for the motion

You own a large health and fitness centre, where many individuals come to enjoy exercise. You believe there are many ways of keeping fit and healthy which do not involve having to compete with anyone other than yourself.

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3rd speaker for the motion

You are a parent who has had to deal with upset children when they have lost a competition. You think competition causes unnecessary upset for youngsters.

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1st speaker against the motion

You are brilliant at sport and music. You have already enjoyed winning several competitions – but you feel you’ve worked hard to win them. Your room is full of medals and certificates. Try to talk about how this makes you feel.

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2nd speaker against the motion

You run a large sports centre, where many teams come to play their matches. You see players enjoying themselves, win or lose. You’ve also noticed how players love the sense of belonging to their team.

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3rd speaker against the motion

You are a parent who has had to deal with upset children when they have lost a match or other competition. You see this experience as one which can teach children an important lesson about how to deal with failure.

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