

# Debates



## URBAN SPACE TOOLKIT

### DISCUSSIONS

The benefits that accrue as a result of engaging in debate are numerous. As a method, debates provide experience that is helpful for discussional, cognitive, and presentational skills. Through debates participants acquire unique benefits as they learn to gain rational, reasoned arguments and evidence in action. It is a great way to discuss problems and controversies relating to urban space and to find solutions to them.

## GENERAL INFORMATION FOR GROUP DEBATES

The number of judges is up to organizers. It can consist of experts or just other participants. Judges seat in a row behind the participants. Their task is to review participants` work and calculate the points for each team. Team gets extra points for each argument that breaks specifically other team`s argument.

The teams are always given a statement that is positive. For example - "All urban initiatives should be privatized".

Teams know the topic before the game, but they don`t know if they are going to be for the statement or against it, that`s why they need to collect all types of facts or ideas. If debate type require a team leader, they are chosen before the game.

The position of the team is decided via coin dropping 5 minutes before the game.

Teams can seat at two different tables. When the arguments are presented, the speaking person can stand up. All members are expected to participate equally.

### Scoring scale:

1. Respect for Other Team (0-5 points)
2. Congency of Arguments (0-5 points)
3. Use of Facts/Statistics (0-5 points)
4. Understanding of Topic (0-5 points)
5. Equal Particpance of All Members (0-5 points)

### Some ideas for debate topics on urban space:

- All urban spaces must be free without paying entering fee.
- All urban spaces must be for everybody and should not be privatized.
- All urban spaces should be protected by the government.
- Tourism brings only harm to urban spaces.
- All urban spaces must be multifunctional and should be used by different social groups.
- Privatization of urban spaces brings only harm to the city.
- Jentrification is harmful for the city development.
- Urbanization fuel large-scale violence in developing countries.
- Urban spaces can be used for social movements and protests.
- It is better to construct new urban spaces than to remake old ones.

**TEAM POLICY DEBATES**

**TEAMS:** two teams of two debaters each

**AIM:** to provide large amounts of evidence and deeply understand the topic

**PREPARATION TIME:** a week or few days

**DURATION:** 1,5 hour (approximately 8 minutes on each period)

**PLAN:**

1. Arguments for
2. Arguments against
3. **Cross-revision by judges**
4. Arguments for
5. Arguments against
6. **Cross-revision by judges**
7. Arguments for
8. Arguments against
9. **Cross-revision by judges**
10. Arguments for
11. Arguments against
12. **Cross-revision by judges**
13. Decision of the judges and revision

**SPONTANEOUS ARGUMENTATION (SPAR)**

**TEAMS:** two teams of four or two people

**AIM:** it is focused more on presentation style than on content itself

**PREPARATION time:** a few minutes

**DURATION:** 10-15 minutes

**PLAN:**

1. Proposition opening speech (90 seconds)
2. Revision by the opposition team (60 seconds)
3. Opposition opening speech (90 seconds)
4. Revision by proposition team (60 seconds)
5. Proposition team closing speech (45 seconds)
6. Opposition closing speech (45 seconds)
7. Decision of the judges and revision

# TYPES OF DEBATES

**TOURNAMENT**

**This type is quite different from previous styles. The teams are given a start-up task, for example, to answer a research question/ to explain certain social phenomenon/create a map or a plan of event.**

**TEAMS:** multiple teams with three participants: project presenter, who introduces the project, a critic, who notices the disadvantages of the work, and a reviewer, who gives feedback on the work of critic's and presenter's work.

**AIM:** to develop creative and critical skills  
**Preparation time:** a few days or week

**DURATION:** 1 hour for two teams (approximately 8 minutes for each period)

**PLAN (for two teams):**

1. First team presentation
2. Criticism from the second team
3. Second team presentation
4. Criticism from the first team
5. Team work revision by the second team reviewer
6. Team work revision by the first team reviewer.
7. Decision of the judges and revision.

