

CHAPTER 03

Debate

Debate is a contest between two speakers or two groups of speakers to show their skills and abilities in an argument over a topic. It is a kind of formal discussion before a public assembly or legislature in a persuasive manner of speaking with the aim of converting the view of another person, or of the audience, to your own point of view. A speaker either speaks for or against the issue being discussed.

Points to be Kept in Mind

- Debate should always have a good introduction to grab the audience's attention and garner interest in the topic.
- Prepare the debate properly by considering both positive and negative aspects of the topic.
- Address the jury and the audience properly.
- Make your stand clear from the very beginning.
- Highlight the main points of your argument.
- While developing points, substantiate them with relevant examples, statistics, etc.
- Use argumentative style and logical reasoning.
- State your own opinion or view in the concluding lines with a powerful statement to emphasise your stand on the issue.
- Throughout the debate, stick to your viewpoint whether it is in favour or against.
- Include rhetorical questions, which make your opponents consider the validity of your point while it undermines their point.

Format of A Debate

Write a debate in 120-150 words either for or against the motion on the topic “The Right to Education Act is a Realistic and Achievable Goal that will change the Face of Education in India’. You are Harshita/ Rahul.

Against the Motion

Worthy Chairperson, Secretary and Dear Students

Today I, Harshita, stand before you to speak against the motion ‘The Right to Education is a realistic and achievable goal that will change the face of education in India.’

There is no denying the fact that our country has taken some very bold steps towards spreading education to the remotest areas of the country and to all the deprived sections of our society. One of these steps is the passing and implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act. However, we still have a long way to go to fully change the face of education in the country. What is the use of the act if parents simply do not send their children to school? In rural areas and in many urban slums, this is a stark reality due to the necessity of making children work for meeting the family budget.

I would also like to draw your attention to the wide gap between what is shown to us through various media as well as data publicised by the government and what is the ground reality. We still see dropouts from schools searching for trinkets in heaps of garbage. There are villages where there are no schools, no teachers and nothing worth the name called ‘a school’. The lack of a realistic picture of the state of education and improper awareness strategies and law enforcement stand in the way of making The RTE an achievable goal.

I don’t think RTE will succeed in its mission unless we change our work culture and recognise the reality behind facts and figures. I, therefore, oppose the motion.

Thank you!

Formal address

A debate begins with a formal address to the chief guest, other eminent people and the audience.

Content

Expression

- (a) Grammatical accuracy, appropriate words and spelling
- (b) Coherence and relevance of ideas and style

Formal thanks

At the end of the debate, the speaker formally thanks the audience for their cooperation and listening to him/her.

For the Motion

Worthy Chairperson, Secretary and Dear Students

Today I, Rahul, stand before you to speak for the motion, ‘The Right to Education Act (RTE) is a realistic and achievable goal that will change the face of education in India’.

I would like to say that the RTE makes it obligatory for the state to guarantee the right to education and ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by every child of 6 to 14 years. I feel very strongly that the three basic goals of RTE will greatly benefit the children coming from poor and marginalised families, provided that they are implemented with due seriousness.

The benefits of properly implementing RTE are three. First, it brings poor children to school. Second, it ensures that all schools meet the norms specified by the government. And, third it ensures that all children receive quality schooling. In my opinion, education and literacy are the keys to many problems that the people face. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that today the condition of India on the education front is not like what it was when the nation achieved independence. Successive governments have helped to increase the literacy of the population significantly, particularly that of females.

Thus, if the RTE Act is effectively implemented, it is a realistic and achievable goal. So, I strongly feel that, with the passage of time, RTE will change the face of education in India.

Thank you!

Formal address

A debate begins with a formal address to the chief guest, other eminent people and the audience.

Content

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- (a) Grammatical accuracy appropriate words and spelling
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Formal thanks

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Chapter Practice

Directions (Q. Nos. 1-5) Your school's debate group has participated in a inter-school debate competition and you have to speak for the motion 'Are old age homes necessary today'.

On the basis of the stand you took, choose the correct option to answer the following questions.

1. Select the most appropriate introduction for the debate.
(a) Today, I am here to present my views....
(b) A very good morning to honourable judges, teachers and my dear friends.
(c) In today's world, old age homes are necessary...
(d) The question regarding old age homes is becoming central...

Ans. (b)

2. While elaborating upon the benefits of old age homes, which option should not be concerned?
(a) Security (b) Medical assistance
(c) Love and care (d) Overall welfare

Ans. (c)

3. Which of the following reasons can be elucidated to validate your opinion?
(a) Travelling jobs
(b) Inability to provide proper medical care
(c) Lack of time
(d) All of the above

Ans. (d)

4. Given below are a few statements that can be used in the debate. Choose the correct option to complete it.

Whatever be the case, old age is It is a safe place where elders can have proper medical care. They can relax and interact while their children can work without any stress.

- (a) the only proper refuge
- (b) the backup plan
- (c) a place of importance
- (d) an ideal place for elders

Ans. (a)

5. How would you conclude the debate?
(a) With an appeal for action
(b) With a note of thanks

- (c) With a question that prompts the other side of the debate
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (b)

Directions (Q. Nos. 6-10) You have participated in a debate on 'It is cruel to put stray dogs to sleep' and have been asked to speak against the motion.

On the basis of the stand you took, choose the correct option to answer the following questions.

6. Which of the following lists the reason for your opinion?
(a) Health risks (b) Accidents
(c) Violent nature (d) All of these

Ans. (d)

7. Supposing you are asked to speak after the person who spoke for the motion, how will you address their concerns?
(a) While I agree that dogs are loyal creature, one cannot also deny the nuisance they create
(b) While I do not deny the loyal nature of dogs, I also cannot deny that they can rapidly rising in numbers
(c) While I agree with my opponent that dogs are man's best friends, I also agree that dogs pose a number of risks that cannot be ignored
(d) While my opponent is correct in pointing out the Animal Protection laws, I would like to point that they also do not promote stray dogs

Ans. (b)

8. Select the option that would assert your opinion.
(a) I believe that all stray dogs need to be put to sleep
(b) I consider it necessary to kill stray dogs to control their rising population
(c) I do not consider it cruel to kill the stray dogs as and when necessary
(d) I accept that killing dogs is not cruel but a rising necessity

Ans. (c)

9. Your opponent has suggested adoption as an alternative. Select a suitable reply to this point.
(a) Not everyone prefers keeping pets
(b) Not all dogs can be kept as pets
(c) Even pet dogs are known to create nuisance
(d) All of the above

Ans. (a)

10. Given below are a few statements that can be used in the debate. Choose the correct option to complete it.

The increasing population of stray dogs creates a lot of nuisance to everyone alike. These dogs display a lot of violence, fighting each other in the middle of the road, Not just that, these dogs are the carriers of many diseases which can even be fatal.

- (a) biting people and barking non-stop
- (b) scaring people and spreading diseases
- (c) scaring children and even adults and littering all across the roads
- (d) holding traffic and even causing accidents

Ans. (c)

PART 2

Subjective Questions

1. The government has banned the use of animals in the laboratories for the purpose of dissection. Write a debate either for or against this decision.

Ans. For the Motion

Honourable Judges, my worthy opponents and dear students. Today I, Meena of Class XI, will speak in favour of the motion 'Government's ban on dissection of animals in laboratories is justified'.

We all are aware that animals are creatures with feelings, just like human beings. Many of you have pets in your homes. Do they not respond to feelings of affection or even when they are reprimanded for some wrong action on their part?

Then why do we want to kill and abuse animals for no fault of theirs? For furthering the cause of research, my opponents will say. Well, this research can be carried out otherwise also, by using modern technology and without dissecting animals. If my honourable opponents say that this is part of education, for science students to practically observe what they have been taught in theory, I say that this can be done by providing models of suitable cross-sections of the insides of the animals to be studied. Such models can be made by commercial organisations for sale to educational institutions. This will also prevent repetition of such killing and dissection in future, which not only promotes education and research but also maintains ecological balance and biodiversity. The relentless killing of animals is enough unpleasant as well as unethical.

Hence, it is my earnest appeal to ban the use of animals in laboratories for the purpose of dissection.

Thank you!

Against The Motion

Good morning everyone. Today I am going to express my views against the motion 'Banning the use of animals for dissection'.

Dissection of animals in the school laboratories provides a practical experience of the theoretical knowledge that students learn from books. They get an opportunity to actually put their learning into practice. Looking at this act of education as unjust is flawed because the sole purpose of such an activity is to develop the student's knowledge of the elements and functions of the living being. The dissection of animals has a scientific purpose; it is a mode of hands-on education for students wherein they actually look at what they are being taught.

Now, my worthy opponent will say that there are many other ways to do so through models. But I would like to point here that even then, the real understanding will be lost. The purpose of dissection will be lost as the entire process will become similar to theoretical knowledge.

Further, we should give more credit to the sensitivity and intelligence of our students so as not to believe that a dissection class will make them more prone to animal violence. Students understand the value of animal life and how an animal has the same kind of organs as human beings that perform similar functions. The governing philosophy behind teaching students to dissect animals should be that life, whether human or animal, is the same; each living being is tied to each other by their inner similarity. Thus, a ban on dissection of animals in school laboratories would not be the best course of action. I hope my views on this topic were substantial enough to throw light on this topic.

Thank you!

2. Some people feel that electronic media (TV news) will bring about the end of print media (newspapers). What are your views on the issue? Write a debate either for or against this view.

Ans. For The Motion

Respected Principal, members of the Jury, teachers and my dear opponents. Good morning to you all. Today I, Faisal, take the opportunity to express my views for the motion 'Electronic media (TV news) will bring about the end print media (newspapers)'.

We are living in a rapidly developing and modernised era where technology is taking charge in every walks of our life. Thus, it comes as no surprise that the electronic media is taking over print media rapidly. Let us take an example of news. Earlier people depended on daily newspapers as there was no other source of news and information. Today, in comparison to the one day wait, we get all new information we need almost instantly. With the 24-hour format, we have access to better and fast flowing news and information.

Further, newspapers cater to only the urban educated sections of the society while the electronic media caters to every individual making the world an inclusive society. The best part of Electronics media is that it gives picture and the scenes of the places of incidents which makes the information much more relatable and authentic. In addition, e-media is also environment friendly. Therefore, electronic media is preferred by all and thus, will soon take over print media.

Thank you!

Against The Motion

Some people believe that electronic media (TV news) will bring about the end of the print media (newspaper). But is it really so? Respected Principal, members of the Jury, teachers and my dear opponents. Good morning to you all.

Today I, Ruchi, take the opportunity to express my disagreement with this view. The print media is a tried and tested medium which has been functioning over centuries and still its popularity has not diminished. Infact, it has managed to hold its ground despite the fact that TV news channels telecast news 24 x 7. News in the print media are analysed and verified and are not repetitive like TV news. Moreover, newspapers cater to the varied interests of different people who eagerly await their morning newspaper.

The 24-hour news channels have revolutionised the world which now appears closer and smaller. Though news conveyed by TV news channels is quicker and faster, these, many times, tend to omit facts and details about an incident and sometimes even sensationalise news without a reason. There are times when due to lack of sufficient news, news either becomes repetitive and dull or sometimes stories are fabricated in a manner that they become news. Here, the newspaper comes in handy as it gives not only vital details but also contains more reliable news.

Besides, the newspaper is easy to carry and can be read at any time. The permanence of the printed word helps in refreshing one's memory about certain facts and incidents reported in the past. Newspapers also contain many columns dedicated to advertisements like vacant situations, buying or selling of goods, information about missing persons, obituary news, editorial comments, etc. All this and much more information is contained only in the newspaper. Thus, I would like to conclude by saying that newspapers have been and will remain the mouthpiece of the nation and the unseen advisers of the common people.

Thank you!

3. Consumerism is increasing day-by-day. Luxuries of yesterday have become necessities of today. The result is that the more we want the more miserable we become. Write a debate on 'The only way to minimize human suffering and pain is to control our needs'. You are Navtej/Navita.

Ans. For The Motion

Honourable Judges, my worthy opponents and dear students. Today I, Navtej of Class XI, will speak in favour of the motion 'The only way to minimize human suffering and pain is to control our needs.'

I am sure all of you watch TV programmes regularly, particularly entertainment programmes, serials and telecasts of cricket matches on various TV channels. You will find it hard to believe that just 25 years ago there was only one TV channel to watch, i.e., Doordarshan. Even then, having a TV set was a luxury and not a necessity, like it is nowadays. If we are prevented from watching TV by our parents even for a few days, like during exam time, most of us become miserable.

However, our ancestors did not face any such misery. Their needs were minimum and items like a TV, fridge, etc., were just considered as luxury. This clearly points to the fact that we must learn to control our needs. Our need becomes greed which then becomes an obstacle in our lives. In greed, the material world controls us and we join a rat-race which puts us through immense physical and mental stresses. We all know that excessive desires and needs have always been considered immoral and a violation of divine law.

Thus, we all must control our needs and desires to live our life without any suffering and pain.

Thank you!

Against The Motion

Respected Principal, members of the Jury, teachers and my dear opponents. Good morning to you all. Today I, Shant, take the opportunity to express my disagreement with this view. Scientifically stating, all human beings are born with defined needs which are different for each and every individual. These needs grow and develop with time and age. A small child always has small and meager needs but a grownup has a much larger and different set of needs.

With this knowledge, the concept of controlling our needs and desires seem to be flawed. Fulfillment is the key here. Pain and suffering that human faces is because of the lack of satisfaction and fulfillment. If we focus on fulfillment, we can easily remove the obstacle that hurt us. Finding joy in simple things, and happiness and peace is the main aim of human life. Controlling needs then may make a person mentally sick and disgusted which would have physical impacts. Thus, instead of controlling our needs, we must find ways to satisfy them and march towards a happy and fulfilled life.

Thank you!

4. Migration from villages to cities has led to the spread of urban slums. People living in these slums lead a miserable life. Economic disparity leads to the problems of law and order. Write a debate on 'Solution to the problem of misery in the urban slums lies in creating jobs in the villages'. You are Navtej/Navita.

Ans. For The Motion

Honourable Judges, my worthy opponents and dear students. Today I, Navita of Class XI, will speak in favour of the motion 'Solution to the problem of misery in the urban slums lies in creating jobs in the villages'.

People living in cities are aware that every city has slum areas in which the poor, mostly migrated from nearby rural areas, are leading a miserable existence, doing odd jobs to earn a living. Due to their condition, they sometimes create problems of law and order. We should understand why people migrate to cities, even though they are forced to lead a life of misery there. The reason is that in the rural areas there are no adequate avenues for employment or alternate sources of livelihood. The rural people feel that they can earn better in cities, leading to their migration. Thus, if jobs are created in the villages by setting up more agro-based industries or some other self-employment opportunities people can lead a reasonable livelihood there and will have no reason to migrate to cities.

Consequently, slums will not expand and more people will not lead miserable lives in urban slums. This will also lead to prosperity in the villages and may ultimately give rise to reverse migration, i.e. slum dwellers going back to their villages to lead a more satisfactory life! I'm sure this is possible with adequate planning by our state and central governments.

Thank you!

Against the Motion

Respected Principal, members of the Jury, teachers and my dear opponents. Good morning to you all. Today I, Navtej, take the opportunity to express my disagreement with this view. While creating job is an essential for the growth and development of the country, it is not the primary step that would ensure that the problem at hand will be solved.

The slums and villages of the country have a lot of people who are jobless and aimless because they are unskilled. Hence, the first priority should be providing them with the basic necessities of life as well as making them skilled to get a job. Once they are mentally and physically healthy as well as skilled, they can easily find jobs and end the miseries of their life. Focusing directly on jobs can easily take away the financial stress but the other miseries faced by them are left unresolved. Hence, other problems must be given first priority and then proper jobs as well as good salary will make them come out of their problems forever.

Thank you!

5. A number of your classmates (especially those from science and commerce streams) bunk their classes in order to attend coaching centres. Write a debate on 'Tuition at coaching centres is not essential'.

Ans. For the Motion

Honourable Judges, my worthy opponents and dear students, Today I, Saurabh of Class XI, will speak in favour of the motion 'Tuition at coaching centres is not essential'.

We are all aware that coaching centres, particularly for the science and commerce streams, are very popular with students because the parents feel that their children will perform better in their exams by attending coaching. However, this is a misconception, as most coaching centres are literally money making machines for their owners. They have no infrastructure and very high fees. Thus, most coaching centres are not really useful.

In contrast, schools have a better infrastructure with proper classrooms, multimedia facilities and all other requirements for a proper education. The teachers in schools are well-qualified, many of them having adequate teaching experience. Many schools run by registered trusts also have very low fees, because running a school is considered a philanthropic activity by people. However, the schools should reorient their teaching process to make their education competition oriented. This will ensure that schools will be considered essential, while coaching centres will not be at all necessary.

Thank you!

Against the Motion

In this competitive world, students join coaching institutes to score well in exams and be ahead of others.

Good morning honourable judges, my worthy opponents and my dear friends. Today, I will speak against the motion 'Tuition at coaching centres is not essential' While what my worthy opponent has just said is true, the present reality points that students do not get proper guidance in school.

In this cut-throat competitive world, all of us want to score better and thus have no option but to resort to coaching. Coaching centres provide right guidance not only in student's area of study but also in their careers ahead. These institutes can guide students as per their interest and their academic records.

Students get individual attention at coaching centres, which is not the case in schools where each class has 30-40 students and teachers have limited time in class. This makes it difficult for teachers to guide students as they concentrate on completing the syllabus in time.

Coaching centres develop innovation learning techniques for different types of students, whereas in school, students of the same class get to learn concepts in the same patterns.

When a student misses a day in school, due to any reason, they move out of track in studies. They will not be able to concentrate on the on-going topics. Coaching centres come handy in these cases, where they can cover the missed out classes without losing the on-going classes. Thus, coaching centres cover up all those things missed out by the schools. Hence, they are a necessity.

Thank you!

6. 'Brain drain is not a bane for a developing country like India.' Write a debate either for or against the motion.

Ans. For the Motion

Worthy Chairperson, Secretary and Dear Students. Today I, Sameer, stand before you to speak for the motion 'Brain drain is not a bane for a developing country like India'.

What is 'brain drain'? It is defined as the migration of competent people, meaning intellectuals and skilled workers, in search of a better standard of living and quality of life, higher salaries, access to advanced technology and more stable political conditions, to different places worldwide.

Today, from India many people migrate abroad for better prospects and as a result this so called 'brain drain' improves the chances of competent people finding employment. Not only does this bring prestige as the work force gets recognised but this also brings opportunity for talented individual. The 'brain drain' that is considered as a bane actually promotes globalisation and competition. The forex remitted back helps family and also promotes tourism in the country.

Brain drain, thus, enhances socio-cultural and economic relationship. Thus, we can definitely say that brain drain is not a bane for a developing country like India.

Thank you!

Against the Motion

Worthy Chairperson, Secretary and Dear Students. Today I, Kaveri, stand before you to speak against the motion, 'Brain drain is not a bane for a developing country like India'.

Usually, it is the intellectuals and skilled workers of a country who migrate, being dissatisfied the most. This translates into a loss of considerable resources when these people migrate, with the direct benefit going to the recipient countries who have not spent any money on educating them. These migrants are some of the most expensive resources of a developing country like India because of their training in terms of material cost and time, and most importantly, because of lost opportunity. Thus, India's development is severely hampered by these people leaving the country, particularly because it results in many gaps in vital industries and key positions. This significantly hampers the development of the nation.

Thus, we can definitely say that brain drain is a bane for a developing country like India.

Thank you!

7. 'The Internet cannot replace a classroom teacher'. Write a debate either for or against the motion.

Ans. For The Motion

Respected Principal, Teachers, honourable members of the Jury and my worthy opponents. Good morning to you all.

Classrooms are the most influential spaces that exist in the world today. These leave a long-lasting impact on the minds of the individuals. As we move in a more globalised and technologically oriented world, the dilemmas of morality, ethics and life are fast increasing and no Internet can ever answer these questions. Thus, the topic that 'Internet can't replace a classroom teacher' has come at the highest time and I stand in favour of it.

Classroom includes teachers who touch the students' lives in innumerable ways. The bond between a teacher and a student is a human bond. It is a human connect which a computer can't replace. A teacher is a person who is able to have a lifelong impact on the students. The teacher can scold, guide and understand a child's emotions as he/she is growing up. They have a positive impact on a student, which builds his/her character from an early stage. These days, we are quite familiar with online classes and online teaching. There is even a designed curriculum, but unlike teachers, the internet cannot provide encouragement and support to the students. Teaching is not just about making sure that the students are learning, it is about creating an interactive environment wherein the student can grow mentally as well as socially.

The Internet can never answer the vastness and depth of questions that exist in the minds of the students. The Internet may give them information which may not even be authentic and it also can't teach them morality or clear their dilemmas of life. The essence of learning is to make individuals capable enough to be able to cope with anger, anxiety, failure and success. The aim of education is to create responsible citizens which the Internet cannot do. It is only a teacher who takes full responsibility for nurturing the child.

Thank you !

Against The Motion

Good morning honourable judges, worthy opponents and my dear friends.

In today's fast moving world, where technology has taken over our lives in all ways possible, the modern-day teacher is the Internet. The view that 'Internet can't replace a classroom teacher' is a thing of the past and has no scope today. Thus, I speak against the motion.

In today's classroom, the students are much more aware of the world. They have answers to all the questions even before a teacher can answer them because the questions can be easily answered by the Internet. The Internet serves not just as a teacher but as an entire library in itself. The internet not only provides different viewpoints but also enhances discussions. The decline in the number of teachers has paved the way for the Internet to become the new teacher. The quality of teachers today and their consistency is the main cause for the suffering of the education system but with the Internet as the new teacher, there is no problem of quality and consistency. With internet, evaluation becomes faster and unbiased and learning becomes free from time constraints.

On the one hand, where students had to wait for the teachers to solve their doubts, now they can get their questions answered just by the click of the mouse. Their teacher is in their hands and always ready to solve their problems. The Internet is not just limited to the classroom like a teacher but it opens the world to students and allows them to learn.

Thank you!

8. 'The policy of reservation of seats for admission to the professional courses is good for the deprived sections of society.' Write a debate either for or against the motion.

Ans. For the Motion

Worthy Chairperson, Secretary and Dear Students. Today I, Sameer, stand before you to speak for the motion 'The policy of reservation of seats for admission to the professional courses is good for the deprived sections of society'.

We all are aware that Indian society still remains a caste based hierarchical system. The lower caste people have remained exploited by the high caste ones and have suffered through the demerits of socio-economic underdevelopment. The aim of reservations in admission is to bring them at par with other sections of society. Though it appears as a violation of the principle of equality, yet its justification is sustained by the obligation of a social welfare state.

Article 46 of the Indian Constitution provides that the state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people. Further, the first Constitutional Amendment Act of 1951 provides that nothing shall prevent the state from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward class of citizens. We must remember that a country cannot progress until all the sections contribute together. Thus, the weaker and marginalised must raise themselves from the pits of inequality.

The Constitution was designed to help the deprived sections of society and thus the policy of reservation is justified.

Thank you !

Against the Motion

Worthy Chairperson, Secretary and Dear Students. Today I, Kaveri, stand before you to speak against the motion 'The policy of reservation of seats for admission to the professional courses is good for the deprived sections of society'.

The policy of reservation stated in the Indian Constitution was designed as an ad-hoc policy for ten years. But it is continuing to get extensions after the end of every ten years. These extensions are creating frustrations among other people, as they are deprived of opportunities to take admission in professional courses even after scoring a good and deserving percentage.

In addition, the policy of reservation is contrary to the principle of equality. Equality pre-supposes equal treatment to all and equal protection of all people. But special privileges and extra protection to certain classes of people violates it. It violates the very spirit of democracy and does great injustice to the deserving.

Further, the reservation policy has become the main reason for brain drain and the communal disturbance taking place in the society. Due to brain drain, people are fostering resentment as the inequality increases. As a result, the need of the hour is that focus should be on merit.

Today, very high respected positions are occupied by undeserving people due to reservations while the truly deserving is left to struggle. Thus, not only is this policy pushing the morale of the youth downwards but also hindering the efficient growth and development of the nation.

Thank you !

9. 'The policy of no detention till Class VIII is not in the interest of students.' Write a debate either in favour of or against the motion.

Ans. **For The Motion**

Respected Chairperson, honourable members of the Jury and my worthy opponents. Good morning to you all.

Today I, Karuna, stand before you to speak for the motion 'The policy of no detention till Class VIII is not in the interest of students'. It has had a severe impact on the learning outcome in schools and has become a hindrance in the academic growth of a student. Every student knows that with or without studying one will be promoted to the next class till Class VIII. No one checks on the fact that whether or not a student has acquired the bare minimum knowledge before he or she is promoted to the next class.

Cut-throat competition is faced by each and every child. Thus, to become successful students must have a proper base, so that they can excel in every aspects of life. But students do not put 100% efforts in their education. They lack the motivation to excel, first in their academics and later in their life. They become used to not working hard and start expecting to receive benefits without doing anything. Though this policy was implemented with the objective of reducing stress on children, one cannot ignore the fact that the quality of education has to be maintained and the aim of education has to be achieved. Children with weak foundation are unable to perform as their basics are not

clear. It is thus a serious concern that all attempts of educating children is proving to be a waste.

Life, in general, is extremely competitive, so let us not forget that a little bit of pressure is always beneficial in the long run so there is certainly an urgent need to rethink about continuing this policy.

Thank You!

Against The Motion

Respected Chairperson, honourable members of the Jury and my worthy opponents. Good morning to you all.

Today I, Paramjeet, stand before you to speak against the motion 'The policy of no detention till Class VIII is not in the interest of students'. It is universally accepted that each and every child is unique and different. Consequently, each one of us has different learning capacities as well as talents.

While one may be good in studies, other will be good in sports or any other field for that matter. This coupled with the fact that the age group we are talking about generally comprises young children who have very tender hearts, points that every child must be molded and guided in specific ways so that they learn and grow in a positive way.

At such a tender age, a child can get easily affected by any kind of fear and pressures. And the fear of failure in exams is one of the scariest aspects of this. A child from a very young age is forced by parents to excel in studies. He/she is put through endless tuitions so that they top in examinations. As a result, the precious childhood is lost. Further, children do not get time to pursue their hobbies or talents.

In such a situation, the no detention policy till VIII standard is a good initiative by the government which takes away much of the pressure from the child. Children then can not only enjoy their childhood but also work on their talents.

Thank you!

10. 'A career counsellor (not you yourself) is the best person to guide you in the choice of a career.' Write a debate either for or against the motion.

Ans. **For The Motion**

Choosing a definite career and deciding a career goal is very important especially once you have completed your Sr. Sec. Schooling. Unfortunately, not many students are able to discover their potential and interests and that is when the pressure starts building up.

Honourable Chairperson, members of Jury and my dear friends, I am Pulkit and I am here to speak for the motion 'A career counsellor (not you yourself) is the best person to guide you in the choice of a career.' There is no denying the truth that once we finish our school, we are faced with—"what next"? A student at the threshold of a new start has parents, teachers and friends as guides and each person speaks from their own perspective.

It is at this juncture that a career counsellor can help students. They are the best person to guide you and help you decide your career based on your aptitude, skills, performance and personality. Human talent and potential is tremendous and can't be measured as such. Each individual has their strengths and weaknesses. It is here that the career counsellor comes into the picture. They identify that unique quality and provide not just a career mapping but also

support and motivation. They boost our morale and give us an analytical vision so that we can make an informed choice. Thus, I would say that with the help of career counsellors, students end up choosing the best profession well suited to their needs. They perform well and ultimately succeed in life. So, let us make an intelligent and professional move and step ahead in the right direction with the help of those who are more aware and informed.

Thank you!

Against the Motion

Respected Judges, honourable opponents and friends, I will speak against the motion 'A career counsellor (not you yourself) is the best person to guide you in the choice of a career.' I do not agree with the statement that career counsellors are the best persons to help students in the choice of a career. More than career counsellors, the opinion of parents, who are already experienced in career choice making, as well as ourselves, should influence the choice of a career.

All parents want their children to find happiness and success in life. The right choice of a career will certainly provide happiness. Research in this field has indicated that when children feel supported and loved by their parents, they have more confidence in their own ability to find a career that suits them, and therefore, choose one which will be interesting to them as well as provide them a livelihood. An individual should be the best judge to choose a career of their choice but they can seek guidance from parents and elders. Career counsellors do not know anything about a child before they suggest a career for him, which may ultimately result in failure.

They may fail in identifying interest of the children and even confuse them with multiple career options. Today, this field has become so commercialised that in the desire to earn more and more money, counselors may misinterpret a student's psychology and individual capacities. Therefore, I reiterate, career counsellors are not the best people to guide you in the choice of a career.

Thank you!

- 11.** 'Private cars should be banned in the congested commercial areas of the cities.' Write a debate either for or against the motion.

Ans. For The Motion

Respected jury members, dear teachers, friends and worthy opponents. I stand here to speak for the motion 'Private cars should be banned in the congested commercial areas of the cities' as I believe that it's time we did something about it. Numerous studies have shown that vehicular pollution is on the rise and so is the traffic. Today, every individual owns a car and uses it to travel everywhere without any thought of how it can be detrimental to everyone. More and more cars means less parking space, more accidents, more congestion, etc. While the use of cars cannot be stopped or reduced drastically as it is a transport of convenience, it can be banned in the congested commercial areas of cities.

The advantages of implementing the ban is that it will lead to less congestion, less problem for pedestrians and no road rage incidents. Secondly, less vehicles would mean less exhaust emission and less time wasted on roads which in

turn will increase the efficiency of people. Let my opponents not forget that banning cars in the congested areas will also reduce the noise pollution which has reached alarming levels, the space for movement will be more and the vehicles carrying goods in the commercial hubs and emergency services will ply with more ease thereby saving time too. To conclude, this step should be taken at the earliest as it will immensely benefit the people of the commercial areas and become a path-breaking example for others to follow suit.

Thank you!

Against the Motion

Respected Judges, honourable opponents and friends, I will speak against the motion 'Private cars should be banned in the congested commercial areas of the cities.' I am not in favour of banning private cars from entering congested commercial areas because our public transport system in cities is not efficient enough to satisfy the needs of travel for the people in the cities.

Freedom of travelling is inhibited when one is at the mercy of public vehicles. It has its scheduled places and time of departures and stops. Moreover, it is not a long-term solution. Moreover, if traders and their customers use taxis or autos, it will become a very costly affair. Therefore, trade and business will suffer. Retail prices will increase, causing difficulties for the common man. Thus, both business and the economy will be adversely affected due to such a measure, which we cannot afford. So government should think some other strategy to overcome the problem of pollution like odd-even rule, which was tried earlier with limited success.

Further, the solution must be looked in the real cause of congestion which is to majority commercial vehicles. Roads must be maintained, movement of commercial vehicles must be restricted and traffic signals must be maintained as well as properly managed. One can also not forget that public transport can be made more efficient for the same.

Thus, pollution can be contained without putting a ban on cars being banned in congested commercial areas.

Thank you!

- 12.** Write a debate either for or against the motion : 'Participation in sports is a mere wastage of time'.

Ans. For The Motion

Respected Judges, honourable opponents and friends, I, Rajani, will speak for the motion 'Participation in sports is a mere wastage of time'.

First, I will raise the point regarding the length of the career of a sportsperson. Most sportspersons retire by the age of 35 to 40 years, whereas other persons can have a career normally stretching to the age of 60 or 65. After retirement, a normal sportsperson finds it difficult to get a suitable job to make ends meet. The majority of sportspersons in India are neglected after they retire. There are many examples of sportspersons living in poverty in their old age.

Second, particularly in physical sports, there are chances of injuries, which may cause permanent bodily harm or reduce their efficiency. This may shorten the career of many sportspersons too.

My third point is regarding the time consumed in practising, participating in competitions, maintaining physical fitness, etc. All these consume a large amount of time, thus reducing a sportsperson's social life significantly. What it amounts to is that many sacrifices have to be made for a sportsperson to be successful even if the person is talented.

Summing up, we can understand that participation in sports is really a wastage of time, which cannot lead to a productive career.

Thank you!

Against The Motion

Respected Judges, honourable opponents and friends, I, Ram, will speak against the motion 'Participation in sports is a mere wastage of time'.

Sports has become a viable career option today. With the government launching schemes like 'Khelo India' and others to identify sports talent at the primary school level, any child who is talented will be trained effectively using government funds to develop their talent. Talent for a particular sport can be recognised at this age and developed accordingly. Then it is the duty of the child's parents to allow the child adequate time for practising and participating in competitions.

There are many cases of sportspersons being successful and gaining recognition at a local, national or international platforms. Even if a child is not found talented in a particular sport, participation in sports is definitely not a mere wastage of time because it keeps one mentally and physically fit. Regular participation in sports develops the body and keeps the child physically fit. It also develops a competitive attitude, besides developing other qualities like leadership, cooperation and a sportsman's spirit. Thus, sports develops a person in every sense.

In addition, even a moderately successful sportsperson gets to travel abroad for training or competition and meet sportspersons of other countries, thus developing their personality in an all-round manner. Thus, we can conclude that participation in sports is not a mere wastage of time.

Thank you!

- 13.** You are Ram/Rajani, Participating in a debate. Write a debate either for or against the motion : 'Hard work, and not good luck helps us achieve success in life.'

Ans. For The Motion

Hard work means putting a lot of effort into our projects. Luck means things happening by chance rather than through our own efforts.

Respected Judges, honourable opponents and friends, I, Rajani, will speak for the motion 'Hard work and not good luck helps us achieve success in life.'

Luck is some invisible force connected with your life which may turn your life anywhere it may find worthy. It doesn't care about the hard work you have put into something or how useless you were before luck struck you. This goes beyond the fundamental principles of life. It's very complicated and highly illogical I would say. By saying its illogical I do not mean that luck has no role to play. It is just that important hard work is a pre-requisite for success.

Every passionate person could relate to it easily because every passionate person who has some goals to achieve, has worked very hard. It defines goals. Hard work defines life and as result they get the success they always desired. Those opportunities become reality with hard work only.

Not just that, hard work can give us more of a sense of personal satisfaction. Hard work not only improves discipline but also teaches time management. Remember slow and steady wins the race. Here, slow means hard work and we know hard work always pays. Further, it brings its own 'luck' in the form of unexpected benefits. Remember, a hard-working man can make his luck on his own. See the example of Ratan Tata.

It is said that 'luck favours those who work hard'. We should never think that we don't need to work hard. A successful man is successful because he failed before. And he worked hard and achieved success.

Thank you!

Against The Motion

Respected Chairperson, honourable member of the Jury, my worthy opponents and dear audience, I, Ram, would like to speak against the motion 'Hard work and not good luck helps us achieve success in life'. My worthy opponent has just mentioned that luck is an invisible force connected to our lives with the power to turn our life anywhere it may find us worthy and I believe in it without questioning the importance of hard work. Yes, I agree hard work is essential to success but it is not the only aspect that leads to success.

Without luck, even hard-working individuals falter. We will come across many people who had worked hard but circumstances had prevented them from success. These circumstances are driven by luck. Take an example of students who are preparing for competitive exams. They all work hard, but do they always succeed?

Thus, luck is required for success in all aspects. Hard work alone cannot always pay-off.

Thank you!

- 14.** 'Academic excellence is the only requirement for a successful career.' Write a debate either for or against the motion.

Ans. For The Motion

Good morning Respected Chairperson, honourable members of the Jury and my dear friends.

Today I, ABC, stand before you to speak in favour of the topic 'Academic excellence is the only requirement for a successful career'. Success in life is a dream of every person in this world. Every person has their own vision of success in life. The basic of all requirements is knowledge. People get knowledge via education received at schools, colleges, universities and other institutions.

A good education strengthens competencies and developing skills required in the practical world. It helps in clearer understanding of the subject and gives an in-depth knowledge. It helps in developing resourcefulness and improves the decision making ability of a person. Academic excellence also ensures admission to higher institutes of learning, which in turn ensures better job opportunities.

This excellence results in better salaries and perks at big and reputed organisations. Academics prepares one for competitions and helps one learn from them.

Although we need other attributes like social, language and communication skills to get success in life, still academic excellence is the pre-requisite.

Thank you!

Against the Motion

Good morning Respected Chairperson, Honourable members of the Jury. Today I, ABC, stand before you to speak against the motion 'Academic excellence is the only requirement for a successful career'. I strongly believe that success has little connection with one's academic excellence.

We all know many highly successful personalities such as Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Henry Ford, etc., who have achieved great success in spite of not being academically brilliant. However, parents and teachers seem to mainly focus the student's attention on scoring good marks instead of focusing on developing skills. They strongly opine that the student's caliber and future career depends solely on their academic scores. But, academic excellence may not be sufficient to ensure success. There are other life skills such as communication skills, social skills, language skills, etc., that are more important than academics. Life skills along with various talents can give more options to the students. They ensure an all-round personality development, multitasking abilities and leadership qualities, and help to develop confidence in the student. New age careers don't necessarily need academic excellence. In fact, non-formal learning helps to broaden spectrum of careers.

So, it is time for all of us to change our mindsets and encourage talent. Every student should be made to realise that they are a unique individual and have the right to follow their dreams without being in competition with nobody.

Thank you!

- 15.** 'Everyone should become vegetarian.' Write a debate either for or against the motion.

Ans. For the Motion

Respected Chairperson, honourable judges, members of the Jury and friends. People should consume more vegetables and fruits and as little meat as possible because intake of high amount of meat can cause serious health issues. In my opinion, the consumption of a vegetarian diet is a better way to live a healthy life and thus, I agree with the motion.

Life is very precious, and everyone has the right to live, even the animals. Just because animals can't speak that doesn't mean they don't feel pain. Just think about their pain and their suffering when you kill them just for your taste. When it is perfectly possible to lead a healthy life by eating

plant-based food, I see no justification for killing birds or animals for our food. Not to mention, producing vegetarian food is more ecologically sustainable, and it reduces damage to the environment.

One should be vegetarian because it is very cheaper, healthier and better for us and also for our environment. By becoming vegetarian, you live longer, stronger and stay fit. There is strong medical evidence which proves that the consumption of meat is very unhealthy. It also causes heart problems and diabetes.

A vegetarian diet reduces the risk of chronic degenerative diseases such as obesity, coronary artery disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. We should consume fruits and vegetables because they are very rich in proteins and vitamins. To conclude, vegetarian diets are healthy and do not contribute to animal cruelty.

Therefore, I believe that everyone should adopt vegetarianism.

Thank you!

Against the Motion

Good morning Respected Principal, teachers and my dear friends. Today, I have the opportunity to speak against the motion 'Everyone should become Vegetarian'.

Vegetarian diets are devoid of the proteins and fats that animal meat contains. I believe that people should have meat in every their meals in order to have a good health. On one hand, there are several reasons why vegetarianism benefits the human body. On the other hand, people are likely to face some difficulties if they do not eat meat like, lack of energy.

Vegetarians believe that meat is unhealthy because of the diseases it has been connected with. However, there are strong arguments for eating meat. Firstly, as humans we are designed to eat meat, which suggests it is not unhealthy, and we have been eating meat for thousands of years. For example, cave men made hunting implements so that they could kill animals and eat their meat. Secondly, meat is a rich source of protein which helps to build muscles and bones. Vegetarians often have to take supplements to get all the essential vitamins and minerals. According to medical science, a diet constituting sea food like fish, and eggs sharpens our intellect and promotes the smooth functioning of our brain. This ultimately accelerates our wisdom.

Also, vegetarians have a limited choice of food compared to meat eaters. They also face difficulties while travelling abroad as vegetarian food is not available at all places.

To sum up, I do not agree that everyone should turn to a vegetarian diet. Although, the over consumption of meat could possibly be unhealthy, a balanced diet of meat and vegetables should result in a healthy body.

Thank you!

Chapter Test (Writing Skills)

Posters

- 1 Repeated floods in various flood-prone areas in India have resulted in unprecedented damage and destruction to both life and property. Educating people on the precautions to be taken is the need of the hour. Prepare a poster for creating this awareness.
- 2 Design a poster to highlight the evils of the dowry system.
- 3 Design an attractive poster for a 'Dog Show' that your Kennel Club is going to organise.
- 4 The police of your city needs a poster to raise public awareness on the increase in the number of cases of violence against women. Draft the poster for them.
- 5 You are Gaurav, the Secretary of the Science Club of Avinash Public School, Rewari. Your school is organising an Exhibition on the cultural variety of India. Draft a poster to bring awareness among the school students about the importance of culture.
- 6 You are the Mayor of your town. The Municipal Corporation of your town has decided to conduct a 'Tree Plantation Programme' to make your city, a 'Green City'. Design a poster to invite participation from the public for this noble cause.

Letter Writing

- 1 You are Roshni/ Rahul of Delhi Public School, RK Puram, New Delhi. You cannot take your pre-board exams due to illness. Write an application to the Principal of your school requesting him to grant you leave for four days and to allow you to take your exams at a later date.
- 2 You are Priya/ Prateek of St Francis School, Delhi. Write a letter to the Principal of your school asking him to make arrangements for conducting more tests before the exams to better equip the students for the board exams and to help them assess the level of their preparation.
- 3 You are Krishna Kant, Administrative Officer of ET&T Computer Education, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi. Ms. Aparna Ghose of Lajpat Nagar has made certain enquiries about the Computer Programming Course. Write a letter to her supplying information regarding the course. Give specific reply to the points raised and supply other details as well.

- 4 You are K. Srinivas of C-7, North Avenue, Rajaji Square, Chennai. You have passed the All India Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination securing 85 per cent marks in PCB. Write a letter to the Registrar of some Medical College of Tamil Nadu asking for the terms and conditions for admission in MBBS against a paid seat.
- 5 There is a lack of clean toilets in your brother's school. Write a letter to the Principal, Evergreen Senior Secondary School, Daryaganj, New Delhi, complaining about this most essential problem. You are Karan/Divya living at F-311, Ekta Colony Delhi.

Debate

- 1 You are Ram/ Rajani. Write a debate either for or against the motion: 'Hard work, and not only good luck helps us to achieve success in life.'
- 2 You are Ram/ Rajani. Write a debate either for or against the motion "It is cruel to put stray dogs to sleep."
- 3 'Our large population is not a cause of poverty but an asset, a resource.' Write a debate either for or against the motion. Write a debate either for or against the motion.
- 4 'Brain drain is not a bane for a developing country like India'. Write a debate either for or against the motion.
- 5 'The Internet cannot replace a classroom teacher.' Write a debate either for or against the motion.



- 6 'Rising prices can be controlled only by the government.' Write a debate either for or against the motion.