

DEBATE

The background of the slide is a soft-focus image of several blue flowers, likely morning glories, with prominent stamens. The flowers are scattered across the frame, with some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a sense of depth. The overall color palette is a range of blues, from light sky blue to deep cerulean.

Theme: "First Date"

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Take one side, add your own ideas and debate in pairs or groups.

For: People expect too much from first dates.

Points:

- It takes a long time to get to know someone.
- People are naturally nervous on a 1st date.
- 1st impressions can be deceptive.
- ...

Against: First dates make or break a relationship.

Points: If someone is too nervous on a 1st date, they will always be nervous.

It's hard to overcome 1st impressions.

Not every 1st date leads to a relationship

...

- When you debate, you have a chance to share your ideas with another person or a group of people. You start by stating your ideas and reasons. Then the other person or group has a turn. Finally, you can discuss how good or bad each reason is.

Say: “ My first point is ... because ...

- When you debate, you need reasons to support your arguments. Good reasons are ones that are well-known. They should also be convincing and match your argument.

Say: “ As I’m sure you saw on the news last night”

- When you debate, keep your argument parallel. This means using the same verb forms in your statements.

Say: “___-ing, ___-ing and ___-ing are three things that”

- When you debate, bring up the idea of *common sense*. This refers to ideas that are logical. Most people would agree.

Say: “ Common sense suggests that your argument doesn’t make sense.”

- When you debate, be careful of people putting two ideas together that are not necessarily related.

Say: “ Just because... happened doesn't mean that ... will happen.”

- When you debate, be careful of organizations. A generalization groups many ideas together. But they may not fit together. Say: “That is too general because this... is not the same as... .”

- When you debate, always try to sound like you're winning. Your confidence will help you to win.

Say: “ I'm very confident that you will agree with”

- When you debate, simplify your argument at the end. You should be able to summarize your arguments in a few words so everyone can understand them easily.

Say: “Now, I’d just like to summarize my arguments in three points:”

- When you debate, don't waste time asking questions that your opponent will automatically disagree with. Make your points instead.

Say: "This is the best argument because ..."

- When you debate, be careful of so-called *red herrings*. A red herring is a trick used to direct attention away from the main issue. Say: “This argument is taking us away from the main argument. It’s a red herring.”

- When you debate, be careful of people talking about some members of a group as representing an entire group.

Say: Just because some... have this problem doesn't mean all ... have the same problem."

Debate Strategy

- When you debate, be careful of people using more than one meaning of the same word. For example, *poor* can mean without money, but it can also mean *unfortunate*.

Say: “You seem to be using two meanings for the same word. Don’t you mean...?”

Beatty, Ken. *Read and Think! A Reading Strategies Course*. Longman Asia ELT. Hongkong: 2004.