

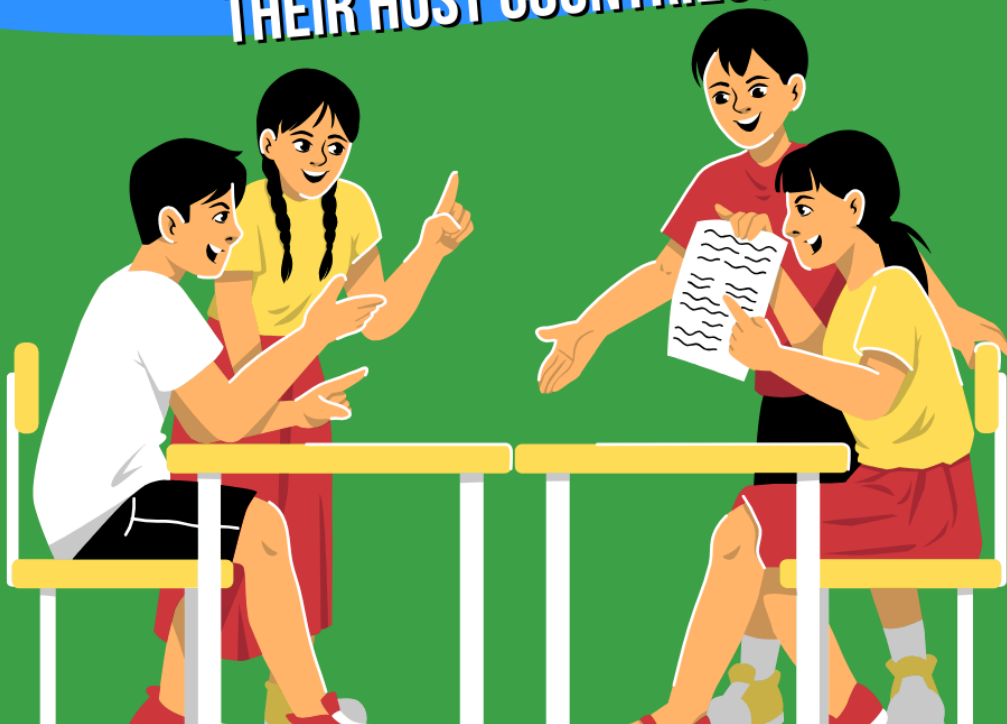


Smart School Councils

DEBATE PACK

Are you passionate about sharpening your critical thinking and speaking skills?

ARE THE OLYMPIC GAMES AN OVERALL BENEFIT FOR THEIR HOST COUNTRIES?



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How to Use this Debate Pack

Whether you have just a few minutes or a full lesson, this Debate Pack has got you covered. It's fully flexible to the time you have, and what you and your class need.

Got 5 minutes?

Play the debate video straight through and dive right into the debate. No need to pause at the prompts. It's a quick, engaging way to get your students thinking and talking.

Got 10-15 minutes?

Pause at the prompts in the video to explore additional ideas your class might have. Use the additional points or Power Facts if you'd like. This gives students a chance to contribute their own thoughts and deepen the discussion.

Want to extend to 30 minutes or a full lesson?

Check out the lesson plan and writing tasks below. There is also a full Fact Sheet with amazing further reading if your students want to go deeper on the topic.

Key

This is what each of the icons in the pack mean



This is what the presenter says on the video



This is a Power Fact to explain or prompt debate that's not in the video



This is an additional debate point you can use that's not in the video



Introduction and Brain Gym Question

Introduction

Welcome to the Big Debate Club! My name is Becky and today we are debating the question... Are the Olympic games an overall benefit for their host countries?



What a great Olympics we experienced this summer! Great Britain and Northern Ireland won many medals including golds in rowing, swimming and mountain biking amongst others. France did a great job of welcoming everyone to Paris and creating beautiful spaces for the competitions to take place. But did it benefit Paris to host the world during the Olympics? Was it just an honour to host or did they get positives as a community as well? You decide!

So in this debate you can either argue that the Olympic games does have an overall benefit to the host country or that it doesn't.

Brain Gym Question

Before we get started, I have a question for you...

How much did the last Olympic games cost host country Japan?

- a. £9 Billion
- b. £11 Billion
- c. £13 Billion
- d. £15 Billion

Which of the 4 potential answers will you choose?

Various impact studies by host governments before the games show that it creates jobs, draws tourists and improves overall economic output, but research carried out after the games show these benefits remain dubious. For example, construction jobs are often temporary, and many of these jobs go to workers already employed. The impact on tourism is mixed, with security, crowding and higher prices dissuading many from visiting host cities. Barcelona, Sydney and Vancouver experienced upticks in tourism following their games, but Beijing, London and Salt Lake City saw declines.





FOR: The Olympics are an overall benefit to their hosts

We're going to share reasons for both sides of the debate, then it's up to you to think of the rest!


It can benefit the economy

You might be thinking that the money contributions from the Olympics can benefit the economy. The Olympic committee makes a significant contribution in cash and services to the host city which stimulates the regional and national economy and compensates the city in some way for hosting.



It can be a catalyst for development

The Olympics can be a catalyst for development. When Rio hosted in 2016, their transportation system was revolutionised through 143 km of bus lines and roads were added to the system, while in Tokyo in 2021 they developed beyond their systems by aiming for carbon neutrality which has inspired them to continue to be a sustainable city today.

Can you think of another reason why the Olympics are an overall benefit to their host country? 

Its a great advertisement

Its a great advertisement for the city. Highlighting the amazing things that are in the city beyond the games through its coverage will increase tourism in the following years as they want to visit the things they have seen.



It can promote unity and a sense of pride

The collective experience of hosting such a prestigious event often brings citizens together, enhancing social cohesion and creating a shared sense of accomplishment. This can have lasting positive effects on the nation's morale and global image, inspiring future generations and strengthening community bonds.

Talking about sensitive issues

The infrastructure improvements made to accommodate the games often continue to benefit the city after the event, leading to long-term gains in travel and tourism. For example, Rio de Janeiro built **15,000 new hotel rooms** for the 2016 games, providing ongoing tourism capacity for the city. [Article](#)





AGAINST: The Olympics are not an overall benefit to their hosts

Now let's change positions and consider why you might argue that hosting the Olympics is not an overall benefit to their hosts.


Hosting the Olympics can upset local people



You might be thinking that a disadvantage is upsetting the local people. The bidding to host the 2022 Winter Olympics, all the Western democracies involved withdrew from the bidding process after voter referendums or public polling indicated a lack of local support, leaving only non-democratic cities including Beijing, China and Almaty, Kazakhstan - if the people do not want the Olympics, then it can cause tension with their leaders later.

Running the olympics can cost more than it earns

Or you could argue that it costs more to run the Olympic games than a country will make from it. The last summer games which were the delayed ones in Tokyo in 2021 generated only \$5.8 billion in profits but it was \$13 billion in costs - so there is no financial benefit.

Can you think of another reason why hosting the Olympics is not an overall benefit to their host countries? 

Visitors are interested in the events, not the city



Visitors talk about the events and not the city. Visitors to London in 2012 may have returned home to talk about the talent they saw but have nothing to say about London's Piccadilly Circus or the British Museum, meaning the Olympics is not the promotion for the city we could believe it is.

The Olympics can create financial strain



For example, the 2004 Athens Olympics left Greece with a massive debt that contributed to the country's later economic crisis. Additionally, the 1976 Montreal Olympics took 30 years to pay off its debts. This pattern of debt is a major concern for potential host cities due to the immense cost of building facilities and infrastructure, which often exceeds budgets. [Article](#).

FactSheet: Are the Olympic games an overall benefit to their host countries?



Here are six key facts - three on each side - if you'd like to go a little deeper.

Yes, They are

Tourism Boost:

Host cities typically see a spike in tourism around the Games, with visitors arriving six months before and lingering six months after the event. For instance, the London 2012 Olympics attracted an additional 590,000 visitors in July alone.

Source: [Source](#).

Job Creation:

While often temporary, the Olympics do create jobs. The 2016 Rio Olympics, for example, generated 70,000 temporary jobs during the event, largely in construction, hospitality, and security.

Source: [Source](#).

Infrastructure Development:

Hosting the Olympics often leads to massive infrastructure improvements, including transportation upgrades, new sports facilities, and hotels. These projects, such as Rio de Janeiro's construction of 15,000 new hotel rooms, leave lasting benefits for the city's residents and future visitors.

Source: [Source](#).

No, They are not

Displacement and Social Costs:

The Beijing 2008 Olympics saw the displacement of approximately 1.5 million people to make way for new infrastructure, raising concerns about the social impact of hosting the Games.

Source: [Source](#).

White Elephant Stadiums:

Many Olympic venues become financially burdensome after the Games. For example, Beijing's "Bird's Nest" stadium costs \$10 million annually in maintenance but was largely unused between the 2008 and 2022 Games.

Source: [Source](#).

Limited Long-term Economic Benefits:

Despite promises of economic windfalls, cities rarely see substantial returns. London 2012 generated £2.41 billion in revenue, barely breaking even with expenses of £2.38 billion

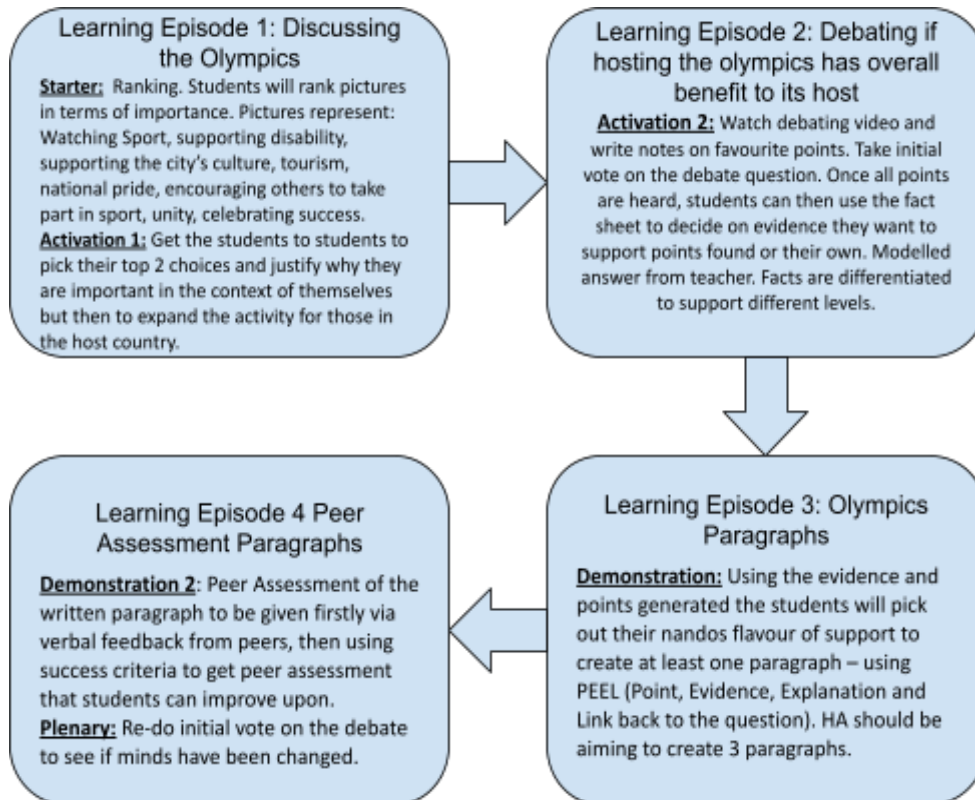
Source: [Source](#)



'Perfect Paragraphs' Lesson Plan

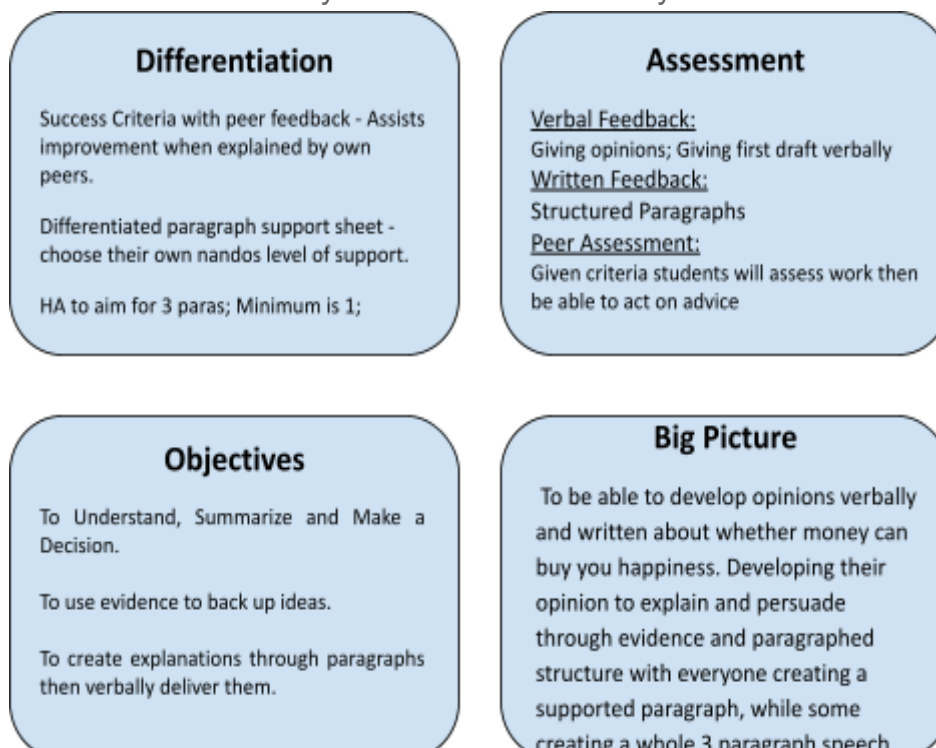
Structure of the Lesson

Here's a lesson plan for you, including four learning episodes. It gives you ways to differentiate to make sure everyone's needs are met in your class, and a way to assess learning.



What are we trying to achieve?

And how can we check every student can do this in your class?



Success Criteria: Paragraph/Speech Writing

Level 3

Make a single sentence point. Mention a fact and say what you think of it. Use full sentences. 1 paragraph written.

Level 4

Make a simple and short sentence for your point. Make a simple descriptive comment about the fact chosen and the impact that it has. Some link to the question is established. 1-2 paragraphs written.

Level 5

A simple sentence point. An effective piece of evidence that supports the point. Explanation of how the evidence supports the point and proves it. Link made back to the original debate question and how it answers it. 2-3 Paragraphs written.

Level 6

Clear, short point. Evidence is written in their own words. Explanation of how the evidence is relevant and proves the point. Explanation of why this evidence is important. Link back to the original debate question and whether this is the strongest point out of all points written. 3 Paragraphs written.

Writing Paragraph Support

POINT

Set out the point you are making in one sentence and which side of the debate it comes from.. Make sure to use the question words to phrase your viewpoint as it shows your understanding of the question.

EVIDENCE

Demonstrate the view you are making with a specific piece of evidence – an example, fact or idea.

EXPLANATION

Explain how the evidence you just used proves the point you made at the start of the paragraph.

LINK

Relate how your point answers the question and the debate. Prove it? Disprove it?

Sentence Starters

POINT

LEMON & HERB: One reason why I (agree/disagree) with this debate is because...

MEDIUM: One point I have for this debate is...

HOT: You could say that...

EVIDENCE

LEMON & HERB: One way I can prove my point is through this example...

MEDIUM: I can show this works through the fact that...

HOT: I know this because...

EXPLANATION

LEMON & HERB: The evidence I have discussed above proves my point as...

MEDIUM: This example proves my point because...

HOT: Therefore, this proves my point as...

LINK

LEMON & HERB: All together, this answers the debate question asked by...

MEDIUM: This point answers the overall question because...

HOT: These ideas answer the debate as...



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