



Smart School Councils

DEBATE PACK

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

SHOULD COUNTRIES BE PAID TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO SETTLE THERE?



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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. Check out the Certificates at the end too.

How to find the debate video and send to teachers

1. Log in to the [Smart School Councils platform](#) using your school details.
2. Click on the blue Class Meeting Tool button in the dashboard.
3. Click on 'Next Meeting' at the top of the page.
4. To get started, click on 'click here' to browse existing questions and options.
5. If the debate topic is part of this week's question, it will appear there. Otherwise, click 'Search All' and type in the debate topic you're looking for.

Got five 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.

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.

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.

What do 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... Should countries be paid to allow refugees to settle there?

A refugee is someone who has to leave their home because it's no longer safe, often due to war, danger, or natural disasters. They look for a new place to live in order to protect themselves and their family but not every country is ready to take in more people. Some countries won't take in refugees due to worries over already overstretched resources, so would paying countries to allow refugees to settle there, as a way to help both the refugees and the countries that host them, be a way to help? Or should countries just accept people who need help because they need help? You decide.

So in this debate you can either argue that countries should be paid to allow refugees to settle or that they shouldn't.

Brain Gym Question

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

In 2023, how many people around the world were forced to flee their homes due to conflict or disaster?

- a. 20 Million
- b. 35 Million
- c. 60 Million
- d. 110 Million

Which of the 4 potential answers will you choose? Pause the video, turn to your partner and tell them your answer.

Financial contributions can fund healthcare, housing, and education for refugees. In Jordan, a refugee-hosting country, over 85% of Syrian refugees live below the poverty line, showing the critical need for external funding. [Article](#).



AGAINST: Countries shouldn't be paid to allow refugees to settle there

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

It could lead to corruption

You might be thinking that paying countries to take refugees could lead to problems with corruption. Some governments might accept refugees just for the money and then not provide proper care or services for the people who need it most, making things even worse for the refugees.

Countries should accept refugees as its the right thing to do

You could say that countries should help refugees because it's the right thing to do, not because they're getting paid. Offering money could make it seem like helping others is just a business deal, rather than an act of kindness and humanity.

Can you think of another reason countries shouldn't be paid to settle refugees? 

This would shift responsibility rather than solve the causes

Critics argue that paying countries does not address why refugees flee their homes, such as wars or persecution. For example, 70% of global refugees are displaced due to conflicts in just five countries (Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Venezuela). Addressing these crises directly might reduce refugee numbers more effectively.

It might create a dependency

Paying countries might create a system where they rely on external funding instead of developing sustainable infrastructure to handle refugees.

These skills foster independence and resilience

The EU paid Turkey €6 billion between 2016 and 2020 to manage Syrian refugees. While it helped many refugees, critics argue it created a model that avoids solving the root causes of migration. [Article](#).



FOR: Countries should be paid to allow refugees to settle

Now let's change positions and consider why you might argue that countries should be paid to help refugees settle in their country.


Taking people in can be expensive



You might be thinking that taking in refugees can be expensive for countries. They need to provide initial shelter, food, education, and healthcare so by offering money to countries that accept refugees, we can make sure these countries have the resources they need to take care of everyone.

It would encourage more countries to help

Or you could argue that it encourages more countries to help. Some countries might be hesitant to take in refugees because they don't have enough resources so if they were paid to help, it could encourage more countries to open their doors to people in need, which would help spread the responsibility more fairly around the world.

Can you think of another reason why countries should be paid to allow refugees to settle there? 

More countries helping can prevent overcrowding



Countries close to conflict zones often take the heaviest burden which can lead to overcrowding in just a few places as refugees leave. Over 73% of the world's refugees are hosted in low- and middle-income countries. Payments can ease pressure on these nations and prevent humanitarian crises.

Wealthier nations could help more



Wealthier nations can afford to give financial aid to poorer nations hosting refugees. For example, Uganda hosts over 1.5 million refugees but only has a GDP of \$41 billion, making international support vital. By contrast, the EU provided €6 billion to Turkey to support Syrian refugees in 2016-20. [Article.](#)

FactSheet: Should countries be paid to allow refugees to settle there?



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

Countries shouldn't be paid to allow refugees to settle there

Aid does not resolve the root causes:

Currently, 70% of global refugees come from five war-torn countries (Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Venezuela). Addressing these issues directly would be more sustainable than paying other countries to act as hosts. [Source.](#)

It will not fix the burden on certain countries:

Refugee resettlement is already highly unequal, with 85% of refugees hosted in developing countries. Paying countries to host refugees could further entrench this imbalance by allowing wealthier nations to avoid responsibility, despite their capacity to absorb more refugees. [Source.](#)

It can lead to corruption or mismanagement of funds:

Many funds allocated for refugee assistance often fail to reach the intended recipients. Transparency International highlights how corruption can misdirect aid in host countries, which might instead fund political or private interests rather than helping refugees. Studies have shown significant challenges in ensuring accountability for funds, particularly in regions with weak governance systems. [Source.](#)

Countries should be paid to allow refugees to settle there

Most refugees are hosted in countries with less resources:

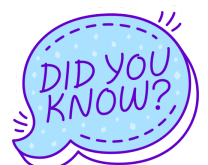
Developed countries host only 15% of refugees worldwide, despite having far greater financial resources. So the burden of taking in refugees falls on countries with less resources, now having to share these fewer resources with more people. International payments could help close this gap. [Source.](#)

Aid would help refugee care:

Paid agreements allow host countries to provide healthcare, education, and housing to refugees. For example, Lebanon, which hosts 1 in 4 people as refugees, saw improved infrastructure after receiving \$1.2 billion in international aid in 2021. Such funds are critical to ensure refugees live in dignity. [Source.](#)

In countries with lots of refugees, aid is needed to make sure everyone is cared for:

In Lebanon, where one in four people is a refugee, international aid contributes 20% of the national GDP to sustain both refugees and local citizens. [Source.](#)



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...





**Post your debate on
social media!**

SHARE YOUR VOICE

We shout out the best opinions each week

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DEBATER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

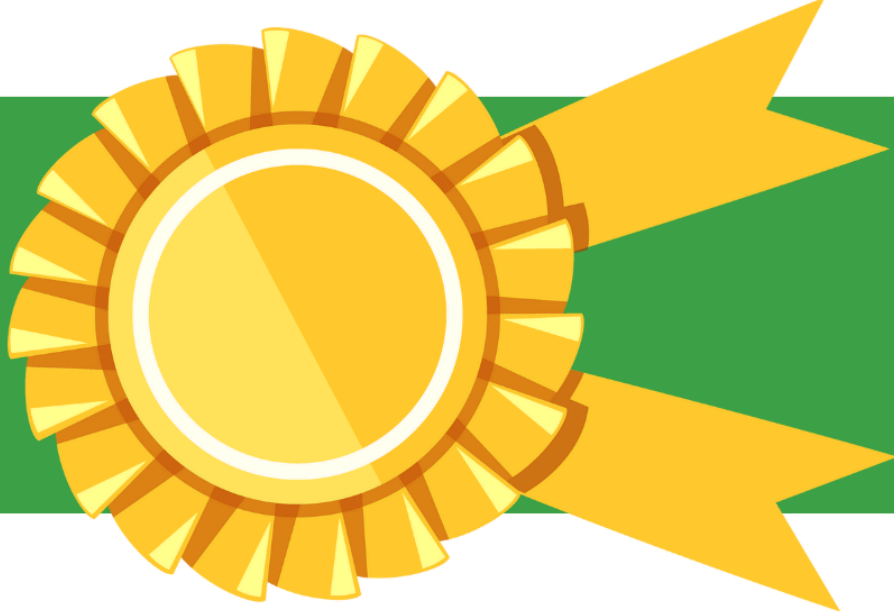
For debating fairly, respectfully and persuasively. Well done!

Share a snap or video @SSCCTY on Twitter for a national shoutout and a prize!



Greg Sanderson

Founder, Smart School Councils



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CLASS MEETING LEADER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

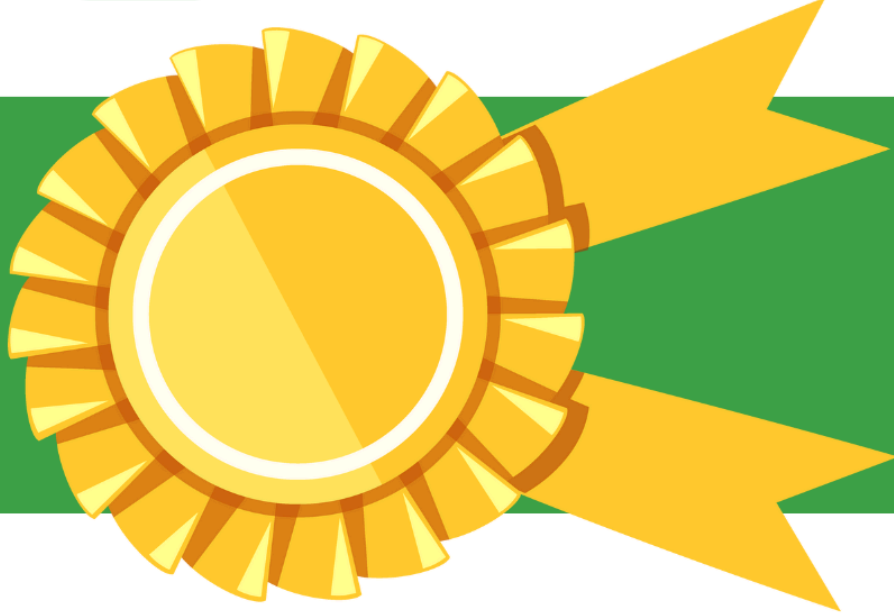
For showing skill and confidence in leading today's Class Meeting.

Share a snap or video @SSCCTY on Twitter for a national shoutout and a prize!



Greg Sanderson

Founder, Smart School Councils



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BEST IDEA OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

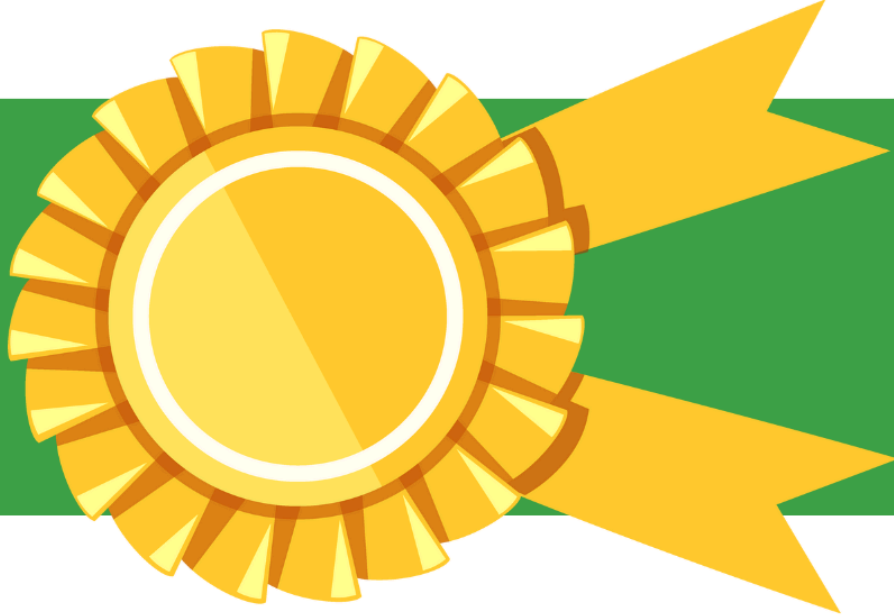
For speaking up with a great new idea on today's topic. Amazing.

Share a snap or video @SSCCTY on Twitter for a national shoutout and a prize!



Greg Sanderson

Founder, Smart School Councils



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