



**Smart School Councils**

# DEBATE PACK

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

SHOULD CELEBRITIES BE HELD TO A HIGHER STANDARD OF  
BEHAVIOUR THAN EVERYONE ELSE?



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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 that's not in the video

# Introduction and Brain Gym Question

## Introduction



Welcome to Big Debate Club!

My name is Becky and today we are debating the question...

Should celebrities be held to a higher standard of behaviour than everyone else?

There are many famous people to look up to: like scientist Brian Cox for his intelligence, Adele for her incredible talent, or influencers for their captivating personalities.

However, being in the public eye means celebrities' behaviour is often closely scrutinised for how it might influence their admirers to copy their actions. While celebrities should set a positive example for their fans, is it unfair to hold them to higher standards just because they're famous? After all, they're regular people too. You decide.

## Brain Gym Question

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

Which celebrity famously said, "With great power comes great responsibility"?

- a. Dwayne Johnson, Actor
- b. Oprah Winfrey, Presenter
- c. Stan Lee, Creator of Marvel
- d. Beyoncé, Singer

With large platforms and extensive media coverage, celebrities' actions and statements reach a vast audience. Higher standards can mitigate the spread of potentially harmful behaviours or messages. Even when celebrities became wildfire victims, their being affected made more people want to be involved in helping climate change or help other victims. (Source: Vox, [LINK](#))



## FOR: Celebrities should be held to a higher standard of behaviour

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

### Celebrities have a lot of influence over others



You might be thinking that they have a lot of influence over others. Celebrities have millions of followers who look up to them. Their actions can inspire or mislead, so they have a responsibility to set a positive example. For instance, Kim Kardashian recently created change in US prison reform after promoting particular people's cases.

### Celebrities are role models

You could say that whether they like it or not, celebrities are often seen as role models. Fans will imitate the behaviour they see their idols do like when Donald Trump wore a plaster on his ear after being hurt, so his fans did too. Holding them to higher standards ensures they don't set bad examples.

Can you think of another reason why celebrities should be held to a higher standard of behaviour than everyone else? 

### Impact on the youth



Young people are particularly impressionable and may emulate celebrity behaviour. Ensuring celebrities adhere to higher standards helps promote positive development among youth.

### Celebrities' actions can impact companies they work with



According to an Ipsos study, 27% of global consumers would consider stopping their purchase of a product if its celebrity endorser was reported to be engaging in personal misconduct, highlighting the potential consequences of celebrities' actions on brands and consumer choices. (Source: Ipsos, [LINK](#))



## **AGAINST: Celebrities should not be held to a higher standard of behaviour**

Now let's change positions and consider why you might argue that celebrities should not be held to a higher standard of behaviour than everyone else.




### **Being scrutinised is unfair pressure**

You might be thinking that being scrutinised is unfair pressure. Celebrities are human too, with human problems and expecting them to be perfect is unrealistic. Holding them to higher standards might put unnecessary pressure on them, leading to mental or physical health issues.

### **Should there be different rules for different people?**

Or you could ask should there be different rules for different people? It's unfair to expect celebrities to follow stricter rules. Why should they face more criticism for the same mistakes that others make?

Can you think of another reason why celebrities should not be held to a higher standard of behaviour? 

### **They should have the right to privacy**

Despite their public status, celebrities are individuals entitled to personal lives without undue scrutiny or expectations beyond those of ordinary people. So no matter what we do, it should not be the public's business.



### **Unrealistic Expectations**

Fans often expect much more from celebrities due to their one-sided relationship with them, imposing higher behavioral expectations. This often means their mistakes are magnified and vilified compared to similar actions by non-celebrities. (Source: *Spiked*, [LINK](#))



# FactSheet: Should celebrities be held to a higher standard of behaviour than everyone else?



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

## Yes

### ***Scandals can hurt their career***

Celebrities can experience significant declines in their social media followings due to controversies. For example, Lizzo saw a 6.7% drop in Instagram followers after facing legal issues and criticism, reflecting how public perception can swiftly change in response to celebrities' actions. (Source: NY Times, [LINK](#))

### ***They have influence over public behaviour***

High-profile endorsements by celebrities like Taylor Swift and Beyoncé aimed to mobilise voters and increase political engagement during the 2024 U.S. presidential election. (Source: Vox, [LINK](#))

### ***The public think it's important for celebrities to be authentic, more than their family***

A YouGov survey revealed that only 22% of respondents believe it's unimportant for celebrities to provide an authentic account of themselves on social media. (Source: YouGov, [LINK](#))

## NO

### ***The public believe celebrities should prioritise their mental health***

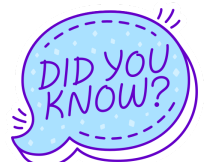
An Ipsos survey revealed that almost 7 in 10 (69%) Britons believe celebrities are entitled to prioritise their mental health, even if it leads to cancelled performances. This indicates an allowance for celebrities to maintain well-being and mental health above the expectations of them by fans such as performances or social media presence. (Source: Ipsos, [LINK](#))

### ***Controversy does not always mean the end of your career***

The case of Ariana Grande, who faced various personal controversies yet continued to achieve professional success, illustrates the complexity of holding celebrities to higher standards and the potential for redemption through positive actions. (Source: Varsity, [LINK](#))

### ***They are entertainers not experts***

Celebrities are primarily entertainers, and expecting them to serve as moral exemplars or experts in fields such as politics may detract from their artistic contributions. (Source: Spiked, [LINK](#))



# 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**

**#BIGDEBATECUB**

**TWITTER @SSCCTV**

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# DEBATER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

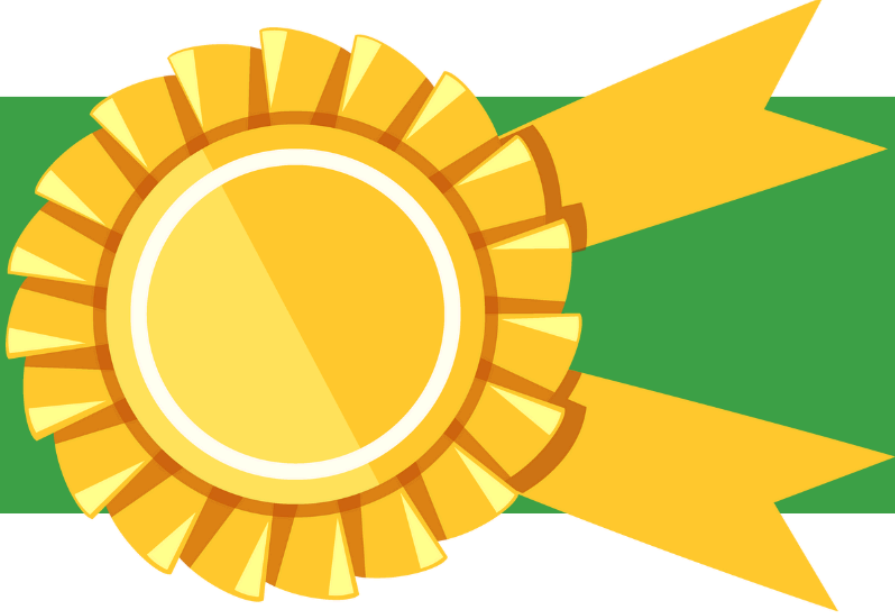
For debating fairly, respectfully and persuasively. Well done!

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



Greg Sanderson

Founder, Smart School Councils



Smart  
School  
Councils  
Community



# CLASS MEETING LEADER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

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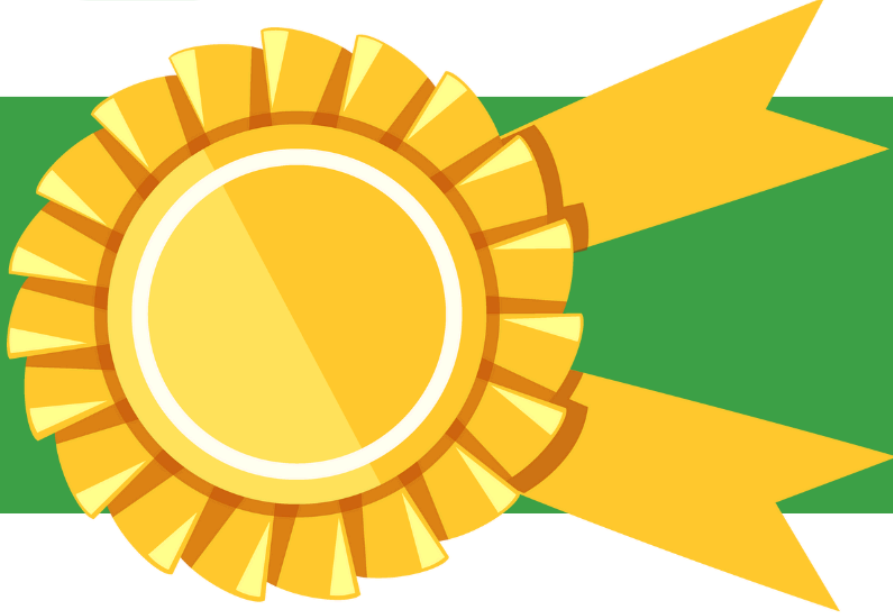
For showing skill and confidence in leading today's Class Meeting.

**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...

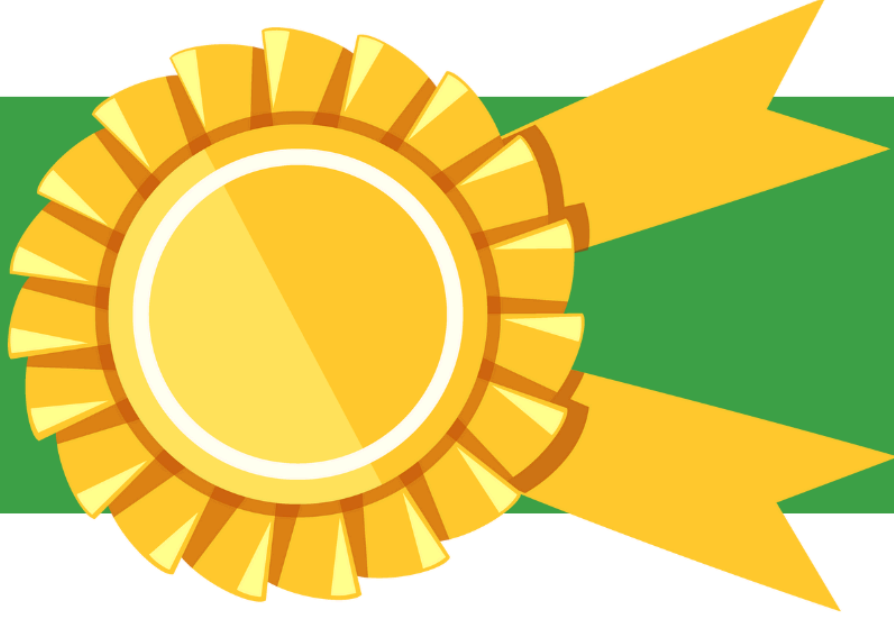
For speaking up with a great new idea on today's topic. Amazing.

**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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