# 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…

 Is online learning better than traditional learning?

Imagine this: You wake up, still in your pajamas, grab a bowl of cereal, and open your laptop for school. No rushing to need to change into a uniform, no need to catch the bus, no heavy backpacks, and best of all—no school bells!

This all sounds like a more comfortable way to learn in the freedom of your own home, But would this be better than support from an expert one on one, chatting with friends in the hallway, or working on projects with your classmates? Both have their positives and negatives but which would be better for your learning? You decide.

## Brain Gym Question

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

The first-ever online course was launched in 1984. What was it about?
 a) Space exploration
 b) Computer science
 c) Ancient history
 d) Medicine

The World Economic Forum emphasises that internet access is not a luxury but a **basic necessity** for economic and human development, essential for accessing education, healthcare, and government services. *(Source: World Economic Forum, LINK)*

# FOR: Online learning is better than traditional classroom learning

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

## Technology makes learning easier and more engaging

You might be thinking that technology can be easier and more engaging. Using online resources such as online quizzes or homework that marks itself and offers help can be more engaging and easier for everyone - including teachers!

## You need the internet to stay informed and boost democracy

You could say that technology can be more inclusive. Whether it is learning which can connect to devices to help with it being heard, learning that can be re-played for someone who didn't get it the first time or from home so it can be done in a way that best aids the mental health or home life of the student , learning online can mean it is accessible by everyone.

Can you think of another reason why online learning is better than traditional classroom learning? ⏸

## Flexibility and availability

Students can learn at their own pace and schedule, accommodating diverse lifestyles and responsibilities. With online learning, it often means that materials are available 24/7, allowing for repeated review and self-paced study.

## E-Learning helps retention of information

The rates of information retention increased with online learning, with students able to retain 25% to 60% more information. This may be due to learners having more control over their distance learning experience with the ability to go back and revisit video classes or their online course material at a touch of a button.(Source: E-Learning Industry, LINK)

# AGAINST: Traditional classroom learning is better than online learning

Now let's change positions and consider why you might argue that traditional classroom learning is better than online learning.

## Learning is about hands-on and in-person experiences

You might think that classroom learning is all about hands-on and in-person experiences. Some students learn best by doing, while others need extra explanations or one-on-one support. In a traditional classroom, teachers or support staff can provide this personalised help, which is harder to achieve in an online class where lessons are often taught to a large group with limited time for individual attention.

## Classroom learning means better social interaction

Or you could also say classroom learning includes better social interaction. Being able to talk over social media or through a chat function on a live class meeting can be meaningful, but will it ever replace being able to talk in person which includes people's body language and requires speaking and social skills?

Can you think of another reason why classroom learning is better? ⏸

## Traditional learning means structure and instant help

Regular schedules and physical classrooms provide a structured learning environment with consistent and instant feedback on your work that can be tailored by and re-explained by the expert in front of them.

## It improves your skills for employment

Employers rated the ability of the collaborative skills of face-to-face and hybrid graduates at 88.3%, compared to 81.9% for online graduates, so to be able to work as a team, your skills are likely better after traditional learning. *(Source: The Australian, [LINK]())*

# FactSheet: Is online learning better than traditional classroom learning?

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

## Yes

### Students prefer online learning
A report from the University of Potomac has found 70% of its students prefer online learning over a traditional learning setting. This preferred way of distance learning is based on advantages like reduced expenses, time-saving allowing learning to fit around your schedule and by using technology, you become more tech-savvy than ever. (Source: *Upskillwise*, LINK)

### Online learning helps students retain information
The rates of retaining information have increased with online learning, students can retain 25% to 60% more information. This may be due to learners having more control over their distance learning experience with the ability to go back and revisit video classes or their online course material at a touch of a button.(Source: E-Learning Industry, LINK)

### Online learning is better for the environment
Online learning uses 90% less energy and 85% fewer CO2 emissions per student compared to learning in a traditional setting as it can help reduce the use of raw materials like plastic, wood and metals as there is no need to construct or expand schools and educational institutions. As well as that, it reduces the food waste and disposable lunch products of students and teachers. (Source: *Open University*, LINK)

## NO

### Graduation rates in the US are higher in traditional learning spaces
The National Education Policy Center Report 2021 found that the graduation rates for those leaving high school were significantly lower at just 54.6% of virtual schools and 64.3% in blended schools (both virtual and traditional aspects) when the overall average of national graduation rate in a traditional learning environment is 85%. *(Source: NEPC Resources, LINK)*

### Employer satisfaction
Employers rated the ability of the collaborative skills of face-to-face and hybrid graduates at 88.3%, compared to 81.9% for online graduates, so to be able to work as a team, your skills are likely better after traditional learning. *(Source: The Australian, LINK)*

### Better coursework in traditional learning
Research indicates that online coursework generally yields worse student performance than in-person coursework, especially for less academically prepared students. *(Source:Tonybates.ca, 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…

**BIG DEBATE CLUB**

# Post your debate on social media!

# SHARE YOUR VOICE

## We shout out the best opinions each week

**#BIGDEBATECUB**

**TWITTER @SSCCTY**

**INSTAGRAM @SMARTSCHOOLCOUNCILS**

**WWW.SMARTSCHOOLCOUNCILS.ORG.UK**

# DEBATER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

For debating fairly, respectively 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

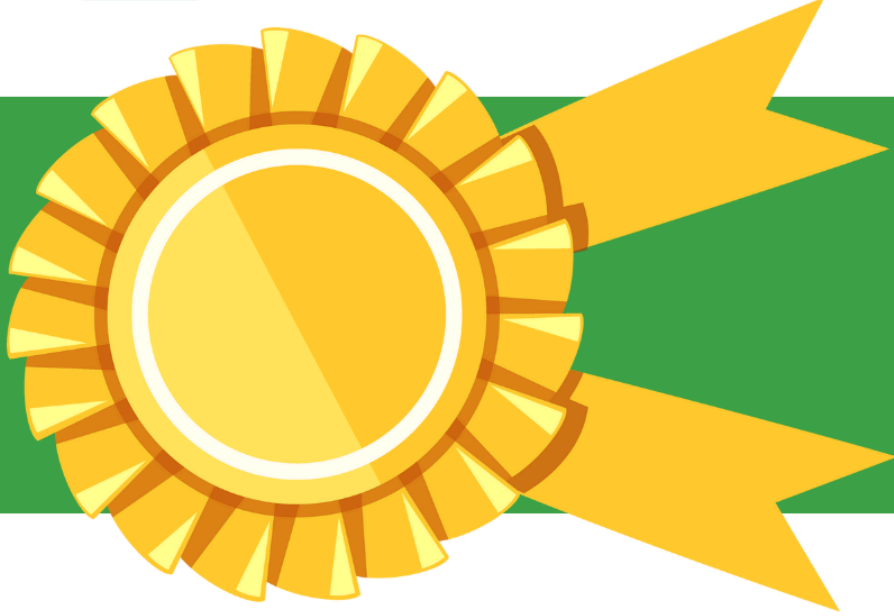We are proud to present this certificate to...

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

Smart
**School**
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Community

# BEST IDEA
# OF THE WEEK
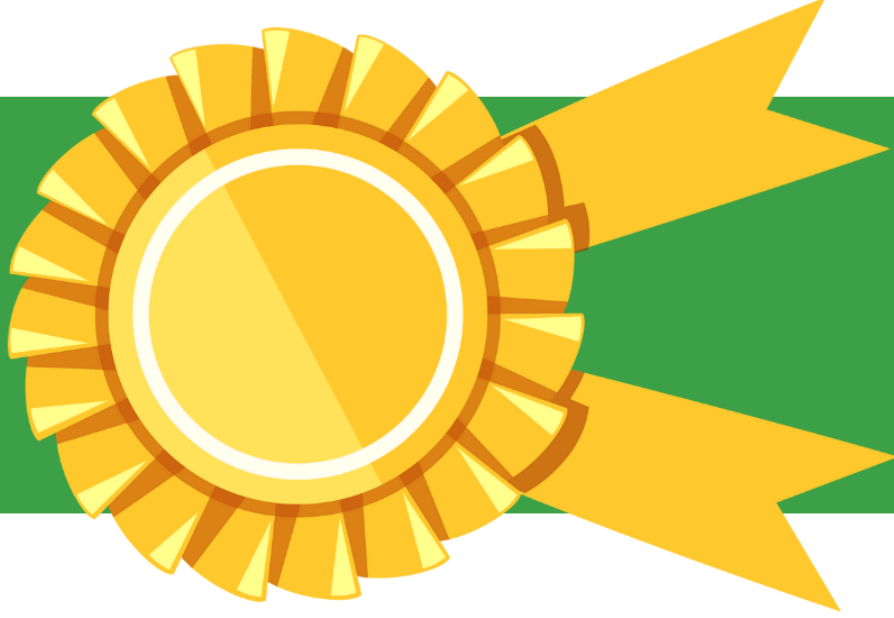
We are proud to present this certificate to...

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

Smart **School Councils** Community