



**Smart School Councils**

# DEBATE PACK

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

**SHOULD EVERY MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD DO AN EQUAL SHARE OF THE HOUSEWORK?**



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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 every member of the household do an equal share of the housework?

Living together is like living as a team, no matter what the building looks like, the people within it work together to make that place a home. Making sure that home runs smoothly takes work includes completing house work, such as laundry, cooking and maintenance.

In each home, should all the work to maintain the household be shared to make sure everyone is contributing to the home or should there be considerations like age, ability or schedule, when giving out housework tasks? You decide.

## Brain Gym Question

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

According to a 2020 OECD report, which country spends the most time on unpaid household work per day?

- a. Japan
- b. Australia
- c. Mexico
- d. Italy

Housework isn't currently shared very well. In the UK, women aged 25–49 spend **an average of 1 hour and 50 minutes per day** on unpaid household work, compared to **50 minutes** for men. (Source: ONS, [LINK](#))



## FOR: Every member of the household should do an equal share of the housework


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

### It encourages team spirit in the household

You might be thinking that it encourages team spirit. By pitching in together and doing tasks that make that person responsible for everyone means you have a collective bond and feel stronger together.

### Housework teaches life skills

You could say that doing housework teaches life skills. Housework tasks all include useful skills such as how to do the laundry, how to cook as well as everything needed to manage a home, which is especially useful to young people who might leave the current home to form their own in the future.

Can you think of another reason why every member of the household should do an equal share of the housework? 

### Sharing chores means a more satisfying life

According to a study by the University of Alberta, couples who shared chores equally were 50% more satisfied in their relationships. (Source: American Psychological Association, [LINK](#))

### Sharing housework will mean more successful lives

Every person, including children, will learn good habits which help them succeed later in life. A 75-year Harvard study found that people who did chores as kids were more successful later in life for instance, being 15% more likely to grow into independent adults with strong relationships. (Source: Harvard, [LINK](#))



## **AGAINST: Not every member of the household should do an equal share of the housework**

Now let's change positions and consider why you might argue that not every member of the household should do an equal share of the housework.




### **You have to consider people's ages and abilities**

You might think that we have to consider people's ages and abilities. A small child in the family should not be doing the same amount of housework as an adult and those with less strength or ability should not be asked to do tasks that are impossible for them just to contribute to the house.

### **You have to consider people's schedules**

You could also say we have to consider people's schedules. Those who work or have responsibilities for long hours outside the house would struggle to also have an equal amount of workload inside the house, therefore by contributing to the family through money or other work, they should have less housework.

Can you think of another reason why you might argue that everyone should do an equal share of the housework? 

## **Physical tasks are shared but not organising who completes them**



Even in homes where chores are shared equally, 65% of women report being the primary household organiser (appointments, shopping lists, etc.). (Source: OECD, [LINK](#))

## **Does sharing housework mean it is done well?**



Despite sharing chores, due to differing understandings of what is meant by the job being 'done' means that energy is wasted as it has to be redone - suggesting only people who know how to do the task and do it well should complete it. A survey in the UK found that 60% of couples who split chores said one partner often redoes the other's work due to differing standards. (Source: BBC, [LINK](#))

# FactSheet: Should every member of the household do an equal share of the housework?



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

## Yes

### ***Doing housework can build good habits which will make you successful later***

Every person, including children, will learn good habits which help them succeed later in life. A 75-year Harvard study found that people who did chores as kids were more successful later in life, for instance, being 15% more likely to grow into independent adults with strong relationships. (Source: Harvard, [LINK](#))

### ***Sharing housework means a more satisfying life***

Sharing chores and housework between a couple who shares a home means more happiness in the relationship. According to a study by the University of Alberta, couples who shared chores equally were 50% more satisfied in their relationships. (Source: American Psychological Association, [LINK](#))

### ***Sharing housework can bring about gender equality***

Female family members are more likely to take on the bigger share of household tasks, and by sharing the tasks among everyone in the house, regardless of gender, can mean a more equal household and society. Globally, women do 76.2% of total unpaid care work, averaging 4 hours 25 minutes per day, compared to 1 hour 23 minutes for men. (Source: UN Women, [LINK](#))

## NO

### ***We cannot force people with limitations to contribute equally***

There are many people in every community who have limitations that means they would not be able to contribute equally and it would be unfair to try to force them to do so. According to the CDC, 1 in 4 U.S. adults lives with a disability, which may limit their ability to contribute equally to housework. (Source: CDC, [LINK](#))

### ***Does sharing the housework mean its done well?***

Despite sharing the chores needed to keep a home going, due to some not having the experience or differing understandings of what is meant by the job being 'done' means that energy is wasted as it has to be redone - suggesting only people who know how to do the task and do it well should complete it. A survey in the UK found that 60% of couples who split chores said one partner often redoes the other's work due to differing standards. (Source: BBC, [LINK](#))

### ***Physical tasks are shared but not organising who completes them***

Even in homes where chores are shared equally, 65% of women report being the primary household organiser (appointments, shopping lists, etc.). (Source: OECD, [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...

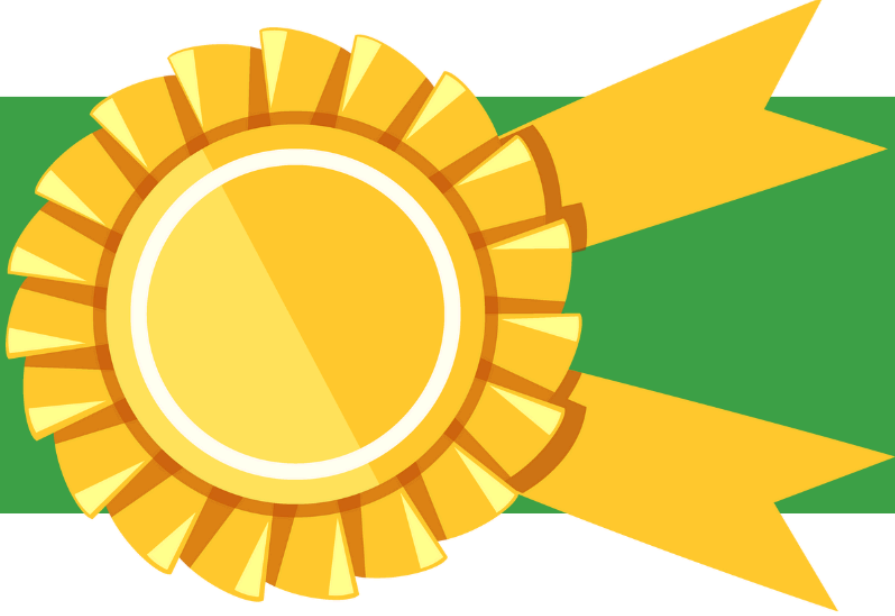
For debating fairly, respectfully and persuasively. Well done!

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



Greg Sanderson

Founder, Smart School Councils



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School  
Councils  
Community



# CLASS MEETING LEADER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

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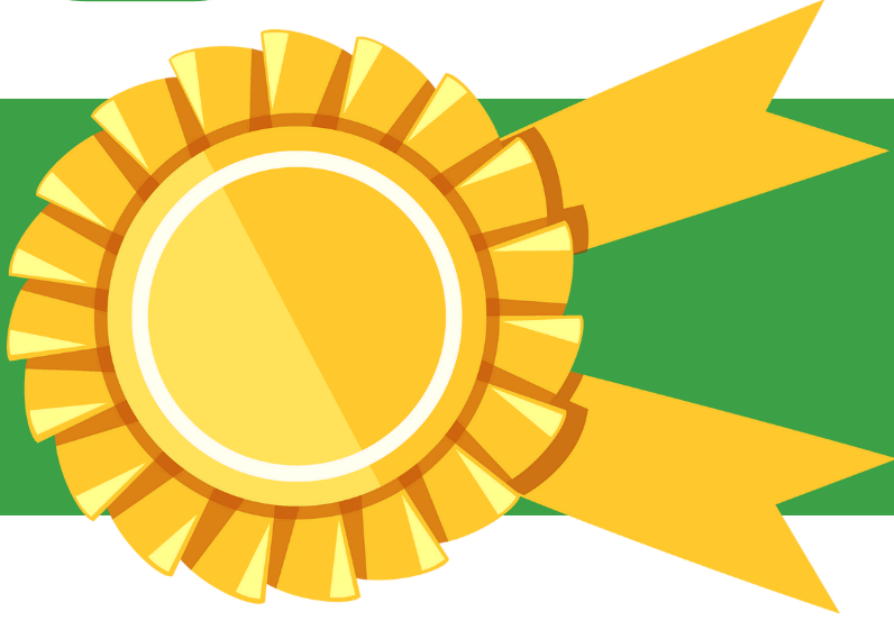
For showing skill and confidence in leading today's Class Meeting.

**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...

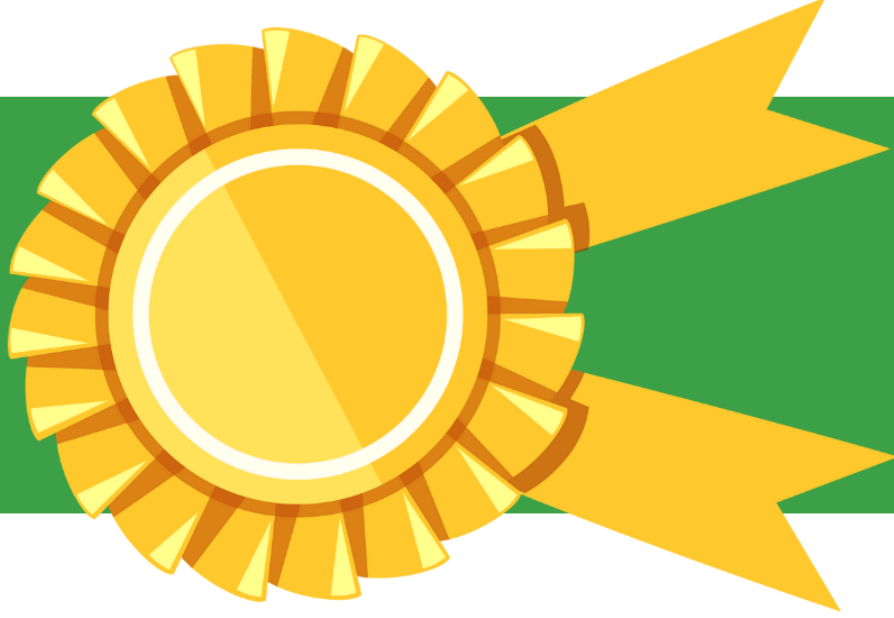
For speaking up with a great new idea on today's topic. Amazing.

**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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