



Smart School Councils

DEBATE PACK

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

SHOULD EVERYONE GET A DAY OFF FOR THEIR BIRTHDAY?



WWW.SMARTSCHOOLCOUNCILS.ORG

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 everyone get a day off for their birthday?

Is there anyone in the room with a birthday today? Or coming up? If so, I hope you have a wonderful birthday! Birthdays can be a special day for those who want to celebrate them - it celebrates all the things you achieved in the past year of your life and a beginning to a new year of your life.

For such a special day, should everyone get a day off from school or their job to celebrate it? Or would everyone without restriction having a day off on their birthday cause problems for how society runs? You decide.

Brain Gym Question

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

What ancient civilization is believed to have started the tradition of birthday cakes?

- a) Ancient Greece
- b) Ancient Egypt
- c) Ancient India
- d) Ancient China

A survey by Money Penny found that only about 6% of UK employees currently receive time off for their birthday as a paid benefit and automatically part of their job. So, should it be given to more people? (Source: *Money Penny*, [LINK](#))



FOR: Everyone should get a day off for their birthday


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

Everyone deserves a holiday on their birthday

You might be thinking that everyone deserves to have a holiday on their birthday. A birthday is the day in which you are celebrated, shouldn't you get time to relax or spend the day as you wish if it's your day?

An extra day off would boost mental health

You could say that having an extra day off would boost mental health. Having your school or workplace give you the day off would not only reduce stress and give you a chance to recharge, but also make you feel valued by these organisations, boosting your mental health.

Can you think of another reason why you might argue that everyone should get a day off for their birthday? 

Workers would likely be more productive

A study by Oxford University found that happier workers are 13% more productive, showing that rest days like birthdays could have long-term benefits if it was applied to everyone. (Source: *Oxford University*, [LINK](#))

People would feel more valued if they had this benefit

People feel valued when they feel as though their company values them, making them more likely to stay there. A survey by Glassdoor found that 53% of employees would stay longer at a company that offered personalised perks like birthday leave. (Source: *Glassdoor*, [LINK](#))



AGAINST: Not everyone should get a day off for their birthday

Now let's change positions and consider why you might argue that not everyone should get a day off for their birthday.




Giving everyone their birthday off might not be practical

You might think that giving everyone their birthday off might not be practical. If lots of people in one school or one workplace have the same birthday or birthdays close by each other - it could mean the running smoothly of important places might not happen - if lots of teachers have the same birthday - school couldn't run or if lots of police had the same birthday in one area - there would not be enough police to prevent crime.

It could create unfairness for some people's birthdays

Or you could also say it could be unfair for some people's birthdays. If someone's birthday is on a national holiday or on the weekend - they might already have the day off and therefore not have their special birthday holiday - does that mean they miss it that year or they are owed a day off? It could get very complicated.

Can you think of another reason why you might argue that not everyone should get a day off for their birthday? 

It could hurt productivity for your colleagues



In schools and workplaces, random single-day absences could cause scheduling problems — especially in teams. 48% of managers say unplanned absences hurt productivity. (Source: *Society for Human Resource Management*, [LINK](#))

Do we need to make everyone have a day off?



If people would not like to take their birthday off due to work demands, or take a day off elsewhere instead, we shouldn't make everyone have it. A YouGov poll found that 41% of people think taking a full day off for a birthday is "unnecessary or excessive," showing many people would not need or want it. (Source: *YouGov*, [LINK](#)).

FactSheet: Should everyone get a day off for their birthday?



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

Yes

Workers are more likely to be productive

A study by Oxford University found that happier workers are 13% more productive, showing that rest days like birthdays could have long-term benefits if it was applied to everyone. (Source: Oxford University, [LINK](#))

People would feel more valued by having such a benefit

People feel valued when they feel as though their company values them, making them more likely to stay there. A survey by Glassdoor found that 53% of employees would stay longer at a company that offered personalised perks like birthday leave. (Source: Glassdoor, [LINK](#))

Many companies already offer it, and many people would like to have it

A growing number of companies (like Adobe and Virgin) now offer birthday leave — and with 21.3% of employees ranked having paid time off on their birthday among the top desired workplace perks, why not give it to everyone? (Source: Real Business, [LINK](#))

NO

It cannot be applied equally to everyone

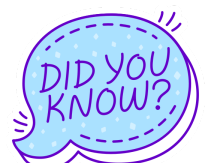
For individuals who work in different or non-full time work structures such as hourly or part time might not be able to take birthdays off due to being needed to work certain days only. Having their birthday off on their work day could significantly affect the business and the person's pay. For instance, businesses with hourly staff or shift work, giving everyone a birthday off might not be realistic. In hospitality, 63% of employees work on holidays and special occasions. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, [LINK](#))

Do we need to mandate that everyone takes a day off?

If people would not like to take their birthday off due to work demands, or take a day off elsewhere instead, we shouldn't make everyone have it. A YouGov poll found that 41% of people think taking a full day off for a birthday is "unnecessary or excessive," showing many people would not need or want it. (Source: YouGov, [LINK](#))

It could hurt productivity for your colleagues

In schools and workplaces, random single-day absences could cause scheduling problems — especially in teams. 48% of managers say unplanned absences hurt productivity. (Source: Society for Human Resource Management, [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 @SSCCTY

INSTAGRAM @SMARTSCHOOLCOUNCILS



WWW.SMARTSCHOOLCOUNCILS.ORG.UK

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...

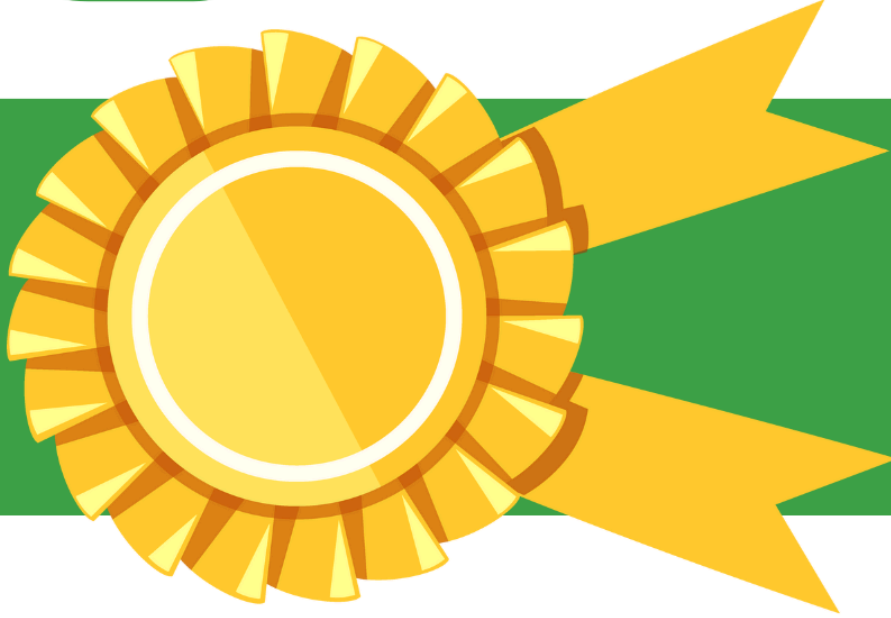
For showing skill and confidence in leading today's Class Meeting.

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



Greg Sanderson

Founder, Smart School Councils



Smart
School
Councils
Community



BEST IDEA OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

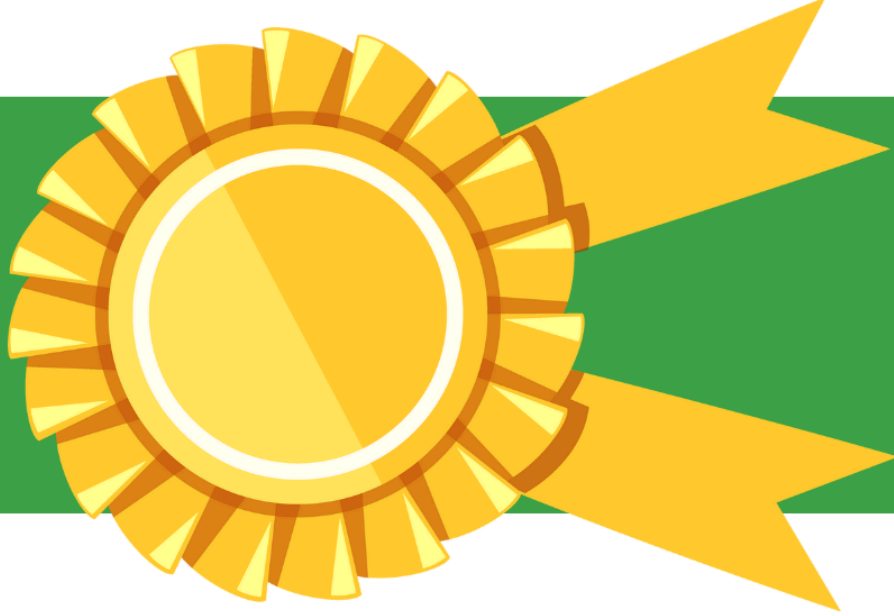
For speaking up with a great new idea on today's topic. Amazing.

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

