



Smart School Councils

DEBATE PACK

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

**IS DRESSING UP THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO
MAKE SURE READING IS ENJOYABLE?**



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...

Is dressing up the most effective way to make sure reading is enjoyable?

Happy World Book Day to everyone! I hope you are having or have had a wonderful time immersing yourself into books, reading and different worlds in your imagination through the pages. I have listened to so many thought-provoking responses from schools across the nation through our last debate, thank you for taking part, but I have managed to choose some interesting opinions to include in our debate today - will you be shouted out?

The World Book Day team and Smart School Councils both want you to read for enjoyment, but which is the most effective way to help you do that and promote reading for enjoyment to those who don't already know how great reading is. Dressing up on World Book Day is pretty enjoyable but are there more effective ways? You decide.

Brain Gym Question

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

According to the National Literacy Trust, how many young people, aged 8-18, say they enjoy reading in their free time?

- a) 1 in 2
- b) 1 in 3
- c) 1 in 5
- d) 1 in 10

According to World Book Day's own research, over a quarter of children say they would read more if books reflected their interests, showing enjoyment depends on choice, not costumes. (Source: *World Book Day*, [LINK](#))



FOR: Dressing up is the most effective way

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

It gives us the opportunity to express ourselves - Samuel Laycock



Firstly, Samuel Laycock School in Ashton-Under-Lyne suggested dressing up is the more effective way as it gives us the opportunity to express ourselves through our favourite books. We might spend a lot of time looking for the costumes to show how much we like our favourite book and express our love for it through creating our costume. If we see other people in costumes we would know what they like and understand each other better - being able to share these parts of each other and express ourselves.

An opportunity to inspire each other to read - Green Park Primary

Secondly, Green Park Primary School in Liverpool suggested dressing up gives us a fun opportunity to inspire each other to read. Dressing up is fun and brings more fun to reading by including it in World Book Day. By making world book day so fun, it will inspire other young people to read due to making access to reading fun and easy.

Can you think of another reason why you might argue that dressing up is the most effective way to make sure reading is enjoyable? 🗨️

Reading is more enjoyed by those who take part in activities



63.8% of children who participate in World Book Day activities, such as dressing up like a book character, enjoy reading more than their peers who don't take part - taking part will help make reading enjoyable. (Source: *West Wales Chronicle*, [LINK](#))

Children are reading more due to World Book Day activities



54.7% of children reported reading more books as a result of World Book Day activities, which shows that dressing up and enjoying the celebrations of World Book day has inspired them to read more and find it enjoyable. (Source: *West Wales Chronicle*, [LINK](#))



AGAINST: Dressing up is not the most effective way

Now let's change positions and consider why you might argue that dressing up is not the most effective way to make sure reading is enjoyable.

Dressing up is not accessible to everyone - Sea View Primary



Firstly Sea View Primary School in South Shields suggested that dressing up isn't accessible to everyone, but sharing stories is. It was distracting to dress up on World Book Day because some people might feel shy, they also said that people might not have money for a costume, so why not wear your uniform but bring in your favourite book to share and use the day to read and share stories, in small groups, on your own or as a class - inspiring people to read their each other's passion for their books.

Dressing up takes away from the reading - Bedford Girls' School

Secondly, Bedford Girls' School in Bedford suggested that dressing up takes away from the reading and other activities would be more effective for promoting reading for pleasure. Spending time doing dressing up contests and being distracted from talking about reading by what you are wearing is taking away from the reading. Instead if we want to be creative, we could come into school to make design new book covers, book marks or masks designed around our favourite books or we could focus on reading for pleasure through presenting about our favourite book, having a debate about the most interesting book recommendation or helping people to read more through reading records and prizes.

Can you think of another reason why you might argue that dressing up is not the most effective way to make sure reading is enjoyable? 

Reading for pleasure is declining regardless of dressing up days



Regardless of hard work from charities such as World Book Day providing lots of enjoyable activities, only about 34.6% of children aged 8–18 said they enjoy reading in 2024, one of the lowest levels recorded. (Source: National Literacy Trust, [LINK](#))

Changing reading habits takes more than a day of activities

Sheffield University research shows that only about 20.5% of children aged 8-18 said they read daily for pleasure in 2025, showing that a single event like dressing up doesn't solve ongoing reading habits, but more regular intervention would be needed. (Source: Sheffield University, [LINK](#))



FactSheet: Is dressing up the most effective way to make sure reading is enjoyable?



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

Dressing up is the most effective way

Taking part in dressing up means you are more likely to enjoy reading

63.8% of children who participate in World Book Day activities, such as dressing up like a book character, enjoy reading more than their peers who don't take part - taking part will help make reading enjoyable. (Source: *West Wales Chronicle*, [LINK](#))

Young people read more as a result of World Book Day activities

54.7% of children reported reading more books as a result of World Book Day activities, which shows that dressing up and enjoying the celebrations of World Book day has inspired them to read more and find it enjoyable. (Source: *West Wales Chronicle*, [LINK](#))

Parents are also seeing the impact of World Book Day on finding reading enjoyable

Even parents have seen the impacts of finding reading enjoyable on their children inspired by World Book day. 50% of parents surveyed said their child finds reading more fun because of World Book Day. (Source: *West Wales Chronicle*, [LINK](#))

Dressing up is not the most effective way

Reading for pleasure is declining regardless of dressing up days

Regardless of hard work from charities such as World Book Day providing lots of enjoyable activities, only about 34.6% of children aged 8–18 said they enjoy reading in 2024, one of the lowest levels recorded. (Source: *National Literacy Trust*, [LINK](#))

Changing reading habits will take more than one day of activities

Sheffield University research shows that only about 20.5% of children aged 8-18 said they read daily for pleasure in 2025, showing that a single event like dressing up doesn't solve ongoing reading habits, but more regular intervention would be needed. (Source: *Sheffield University*, [LINK](#))

Reading choices depend on choice/interest not costumes

According to World Book Day's own research, over a quarter of children say they would read more if books reflected their interests, showing enjoyment depends on choice, not costumes. (Source: *World Book Day*, [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

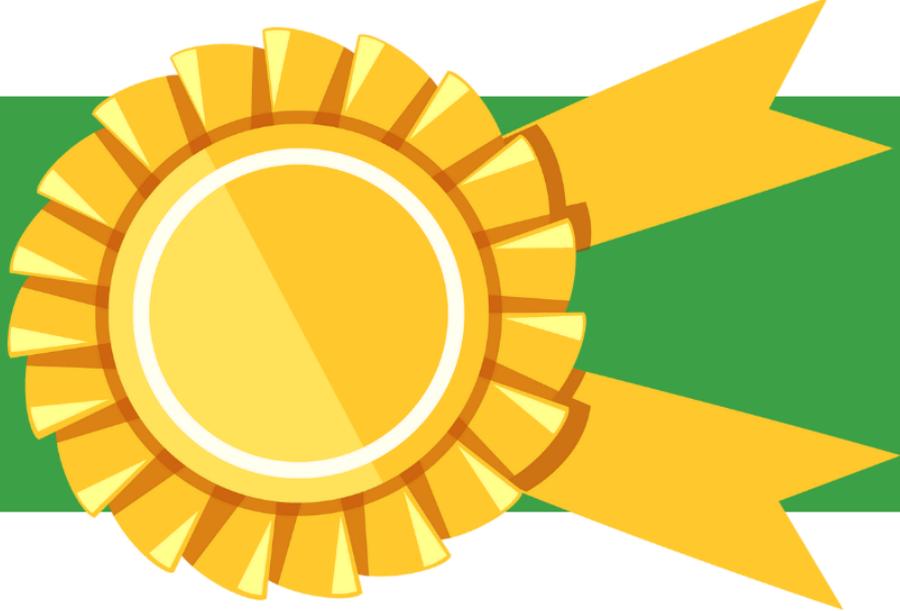
We are proud to present this certificate to...

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



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CLASS MEETING LEADER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

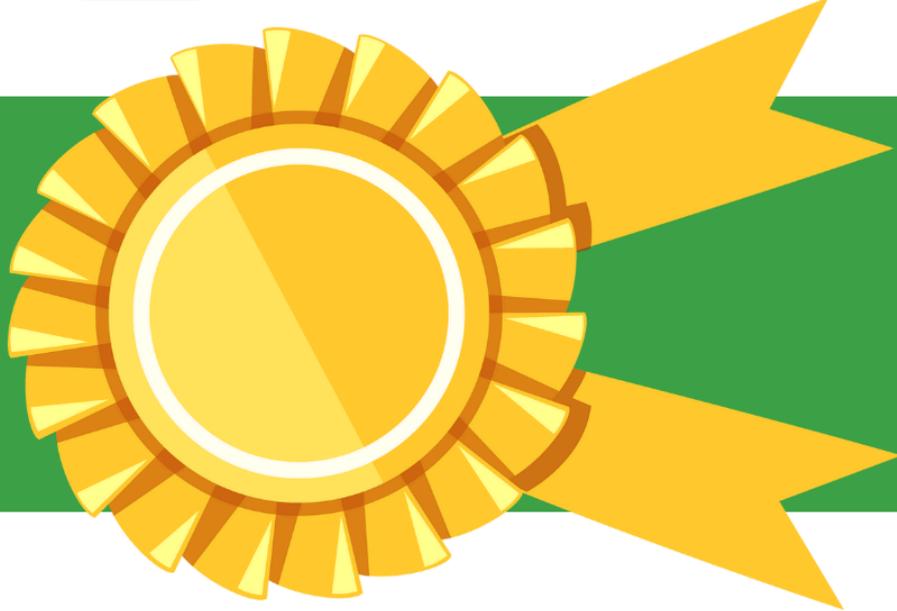
For showing skill and confidence in leading today's Class Meeting.

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...

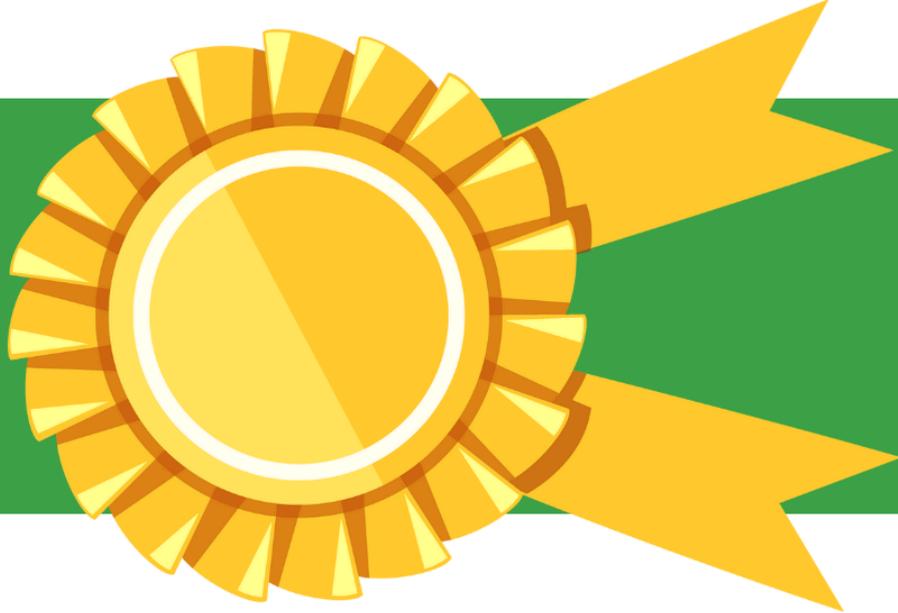
For speaking up with a great new idea on today's topic. Amazing.

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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