

BIG DEBATE CLUB



Smart School Councils

DEBATE PACK

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

SHOULD PEOPLE HAVE TO 'COME OUT' AT ALL?



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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 people have to 'come out' at all?

Happy Pride month to our lovely community, it is a time to commemorate, celebrate and continue to fight for the recognition of our LGBTQ+ community, its history and their continued fight for equal rights. This will be our first of two debates to discuss issues that affect the LGBTQ+ community. "Coming out" usually means telling other people about your sexual orientation or gender identity. For example, someone might tell their friends or family that they are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

While it could be argued that coming out is important because it allows people to live honestly through being authentically themselves and it helps create understanding and acceptance with the people around them. However, some believe that no one should feel pressure to "come out" at all, and that a person's identity is private and should not require an announcement. So which is it? You decide.

Brain Gym Question

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

In the UK, which law made it illegal to discriminate against someone because of their sexual orientation?

- a. The Human Rights Act 1998
- b. The Equality Act 2010
- c. The Education Reform Act 1988
- d. The Civil Service Act 1995

Around 3.2 million people aged 16+ in the UK identified as LGBTQ+ in 2022. Surveys show UK attitudes toward LGBTQ+ people have become more positive over time so coming out can be positive. However, some people choose not to come out, or wait until later, because they may worry about privacy or discrimination. (Source: ONS, [LINK](#))



FOR: People should 'come out'

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


By coming out, people can live honestly and be their true selves



You might be thinking that by coming out, people can live honestly and be their true selves. Coming out can allow people to live openly and truthfully, which may improve confidence and wellbeing. Being able to be yourself without hiding can reduce stress.

If more people 'come out', the more accepted LGBTQ+ identities will be

You could say that if more people 'come out', the more accepted the idea of being LGBTQ+ will be. When people share their identities, it can challenge stereotypes and help others learn more about different experiences. Visibility can help create a more inclusive society.

Can you think of another reason why you might argue that people should 'come out'? 

Coming out can mean representation so people feel less alone



Seeing openly LGBTQ+ people in schools, sports, or media can help young people feel supported and feel less alone. Studies suggest positive representation improves confidence and belonging. (Source: *Just Like Us*, [LINK](#))

Social progress depends on visibility



LGBTQ+ rights have expanded significantly in countries where people spoke openly about their experiences. For example, same-sex marriage became legal in England and Wales in 2014 after lobbying was conducted by groups such as Stonewall, which argued that civil partnerships were not equal to marriage and that true equality required the same status. (Source: *UK Government*, [LINK](#))



AGAINST: People should not have to ‘come out’

Now let’s change positions and consider why you might argue that people should not have to ‘come out’.


Everyone has a right to privacy



You might think that everyone has a right to privacy. A person’s identity is personal and for them to know and decide. No one else has to announce who they like or how they identify, so it can be argued that LGBTQ+ people shouldn’t feel required to either.

It might not be safe or comfortable to ‘come out’

Or you could also say it might not be safe or comfortable to come out, so no one ‘should’ have to. Not everyone feels safe or ready to share personal information with certain people in their lives, for instance, in some situations, coming out could lead to being treated differently due to discrimination, misunderstanding as the person receiving the information may not know enough about being LGBTQ+, or conflict if people do not agree with being LGBTQ+.

Can you think of another reason why you might argue that people should not have to ‘come out’ at all? 

Some people are still exploring their identity, which can change



Some people are still exploring who they are and may not want to give themselves labels straight away, especially if they are not certain they are the right fit. Young people especially may need time to understand their feelings. (Source: *Young Minds*, [LINK](#))

Society should change so people don’t have to ‘come out’

Some argue society should stop assuming people are straight in the first place. If assumptions changed, there might be less pressure for anyone to “come out.” (Source: *Just Like Us*, [LINK](#))



FactSheet: Should people have to ‘come out’ at all?



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

People should ‘come out’

Coming out can mean representation so others feel less alone

Seeing openly LGBTQ+ people in schools, sports, or media can help young people feel supported and feel less alone. Studies suggest positive representation improves confidence and belonging. (Source: *Just Like Us*, [LINK](#))

Social progress depends on visibility

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Openness can build trusting relationships

Some people say honesty about identity builds trust with friends and family. A survey by Stonewall found that LGBTQ+ people who feel accepted and have supportive relationships built on trust are more likely to report better wellbeing. (Source: *Stonewall*, [LINK](#))

People should not have to ‘come out’

Society should change so people do not have to ‘come out’

Some argue society should stop assuming people are straight in the first place. If assumptions changed, there might be less pressure for anyone to “come out.” (Source: *Just Like Us*, [LINK](#))

Some people are still exploring their identity, which can change over time

Some people are still exploring who they are and may not want to give themselves labels straight away, especially if they are not certain they are the right fit. Young people especially may need time to understand their feelings. (Source: *Young Minds*, [LINK](#))

Pressure to come out can create stress and affect mental health

Feeling forced to share personal information before being ready can cause stress and anxiety. Mental health charities, like MIND, say people should come out only if and when they choose to. (Source: *MIND*, [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

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DEBATER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

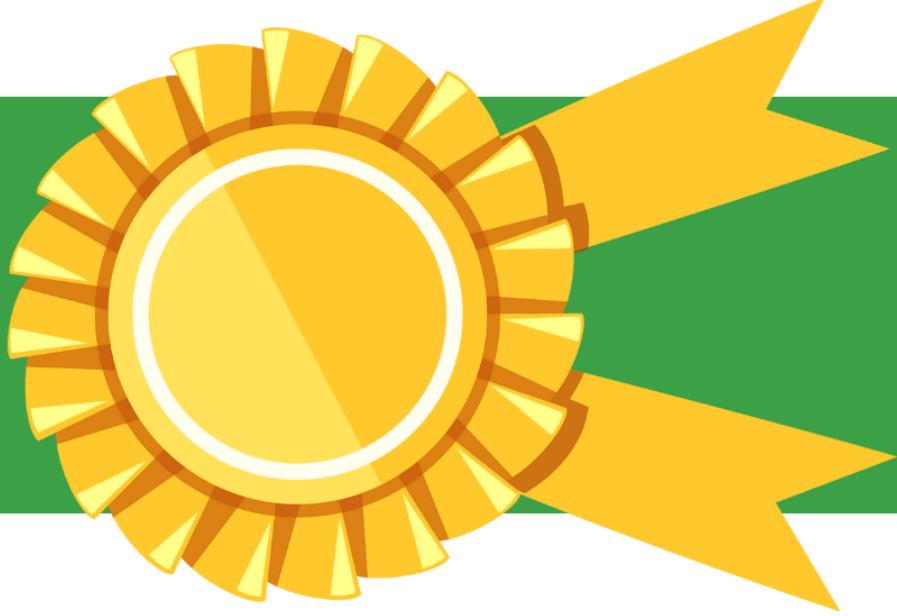
For debating fairly, respectfully and persuasively. Well done!

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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CLASS MEETING LEADER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

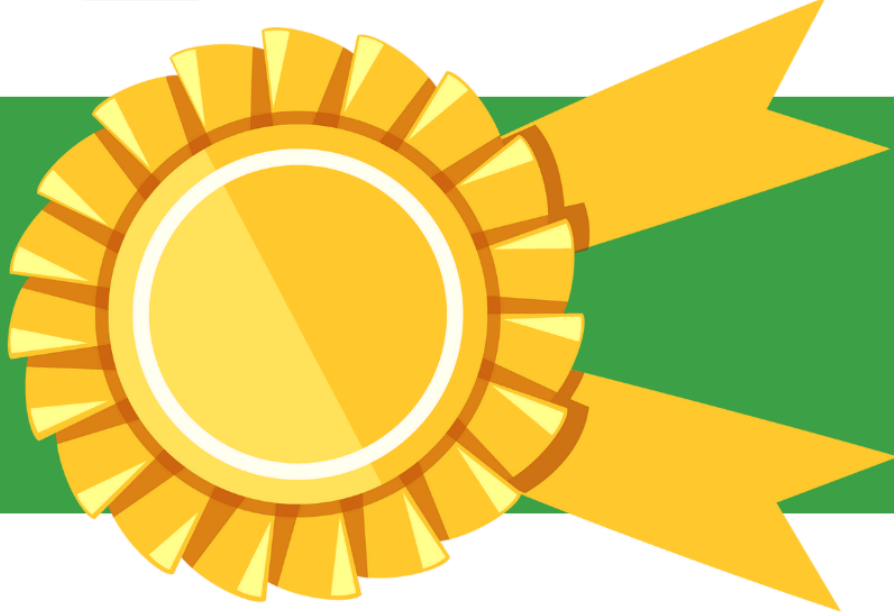
For showing skill and confidence in leading today's Class Meeting.

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...

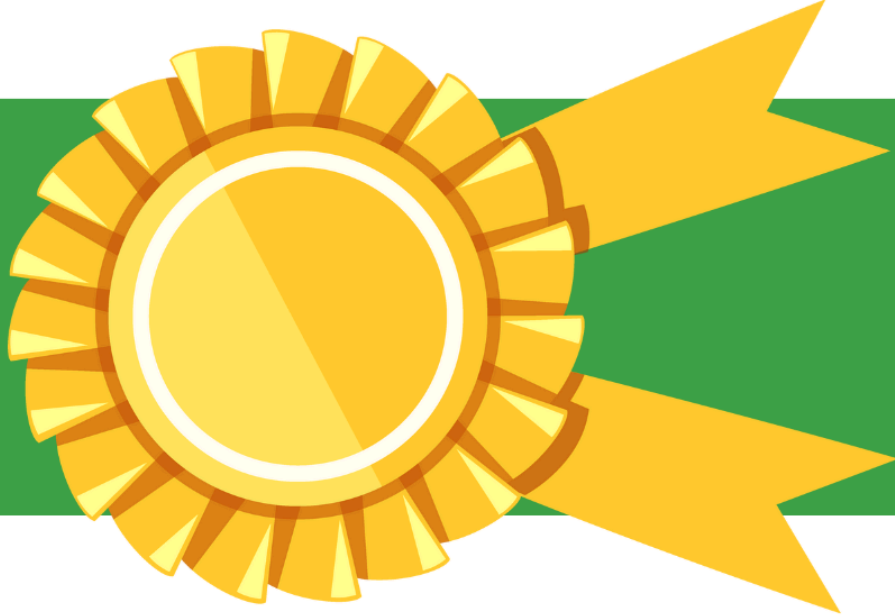
For speaking up with a great new idea on today's topic. Amazing.

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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