

BIG DEBATE CLUB



Smart School Councils

DEBATE PACK

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

IS THE UK SAFE FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH?



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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...

Is the UK safe for LGBTQ+ youth?

Welcome to our second debate of Pride Month. This week we ask - is the UK safe for LGBTQ+ youth? We hope that all young people feel safe, loved and able to thrive wherever they live - but do they? When we say safe we mean physical safety, emotional wellbeing, freedom from bullying, and protection from being treated badly due to identifying as LGBTQ+ under the law.

We can say that LGBTQ+ youth is safe in the UK as they are protected under the Equality Act 2010, which makes it illegal to act negatively against someone because of their sexual orientation or gender reassignment. However, some people might still feel unsafe as there is some potential to be bullied or feeling uncomfortable in certain situations. So are LGBTQ+ youth safe in the UK? You decide.

Brain Gym Question

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

Which UK law protects people from discrimination because of their sexual orientation or gender identity?

- a. The Education Act 2002
- b. The Equality Act 2010
- c. The Human Rights Act 1998
- d. The Children Act 1989

Only half of lesbian, gay and bi people (46 per cent) and trans people (47 per cent) feel able to be open about their sexual orientation or gender identity to everyone in their family. So is the UK safe for people to be open about their identity? (Source: Stonewall, [LINK](#))



FOR: The UK is safe for LGBTQ+ youth

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


It is safe as they are legally protected



You might be thinking that it is safe as they are legally protected. The Equality Act 2010 makes discrimination against LGBTQ+ people illegal in schools, workplaces and services. Schools have a duty to prevent bullying related to sexual orientation or gender identity. So the government and schools have a duty to protect them.

Being LGBTQ+ is a positive and accepted thing in the UK

You could say that being LGBTQ+ is a positive and accepted thing in the UK. According to the British Social Attitudes Survey, support for same-sex relationships has increased significantly to over 75% approval in recent years. This suggests attitudes have become much more accepting and therefore not something to be scared of or hidden away, but to be celebrated and protected.

Can you think of another reason why you might argue that the UK is safe for LGBTQ+ youth? 

Coming out can mean representation so people feel less alone



More schools teach about different families and identities through Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) legally required in every school. This means people learn and understand from a young age about LGBTQ+ people and families hopefully reducing ignorance and discrimination. Government guidance also encourages schools to tackle bullying and promote respect further aiming to decrease discrimination and promote safety. (Source: GOV.UK, [LINK](#))

Comfort and safety is in the majority for LGBT+ people



According to the National LGBTQ+ survey, over half of the respondents (56%) felt comfortable being LGBT in the UK, rating their comfort as a 4 or 5 out of 5. Gay and lesbian people were the most comfortable, with 63% saying they felt comfortable and safe in the UK. (Source: UK Government, [LINK](#))



AGAINST: The UK is not safe for LGBTQ+ youth

Now let's change positions and consider why you might argue that the UK is not safe for LGBTQ+ youth.


Bullying could still be a problem for some LGBTQ+ youth



You might think that bullying could still be a problem for some LGBTQ+ youth. A Stonewall School Report found that 45% of LGBTQ+ pupils said they had been bullied at school because of their sexual orientation or for being transgender. This shows that many young people still face unkind behaviour from other young people.

Some LGBTQ+ youth still experience challenges like mental health

Or you could also say that some LGBTQ+ youth still experience challenges like mental health issues which can affect their comfort and safety. Research from Just Like Us found that LGBTQ+ young people are more likely to experience mental health challenges compared to non-LGBTQ+ peers. Feeling uncomfortable or unsupported can affect wellbeing.

Can you think of another reason why you might argue that the UK is not safe for LGBTQ+ youth? 

Some people do not feel safe enough to be open with their identity



Only half of lesbian, gay and bi people (46 per cent) and trans people (47 per cent) feel able to be open about their sexual orientation or gender identity to everyone in their family. (Source: Stonewall, [LINK](#))

Safety is still an issue

Two-thirds (64%) of LGBTQ+ people had experienced anti-LGBT+ violence or abuse. Of these, 9 in 10 (92%) had experienced verbal abuse and 3 in 10 (29%) had experienced physical violence. (Source: Stonewall, [LINK](#))



FactSheet: Is the UK safe for LGBTQ+ youth?

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



The UK is safe for LGBTQ+ youth

Education about different identities and families means more understanding

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Hate crime reporting systems exist in order to bring justice and prevent crimes

Police forces and schools now have systems for reporting hate crimes and bullying. Awareness campaigns and education from organisations such as Stonewall and Just Like Us provide support, education, and resources for young people encouraging them to seek help if they feel unsafe. (Source: GOV.UK, [LINK](#))

The UK is not safe for LGBTQ+ youth

Some people do not feel safe enough to be open about their identity

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Experience can differ depend on area

Some areas may have stronger support systems and acceptance than others. Young people in smaller or less diverse communities may sometimes feel less supported. (Source: Barnardos, [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

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DEBATER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

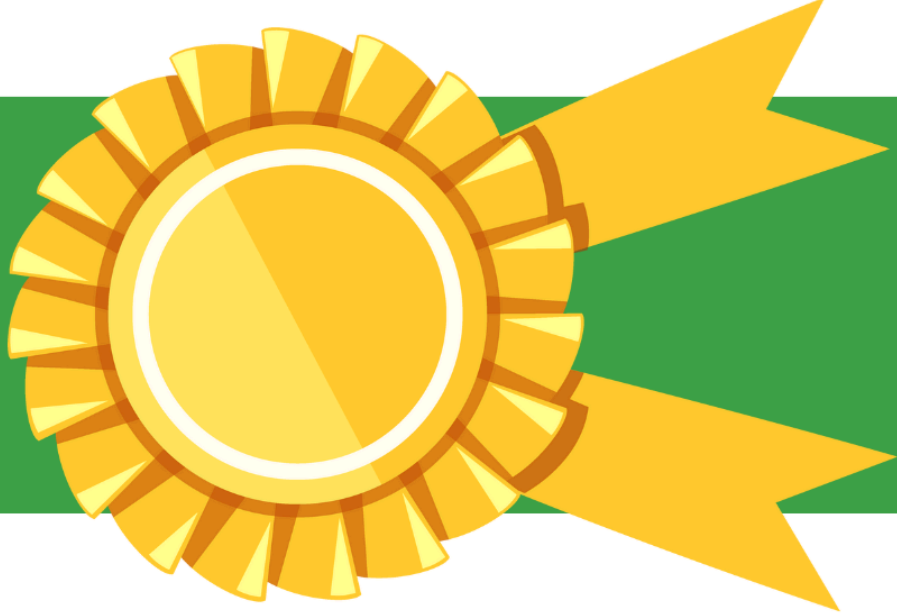
For debating fairly, respectfully and persuasively. Well done!

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...

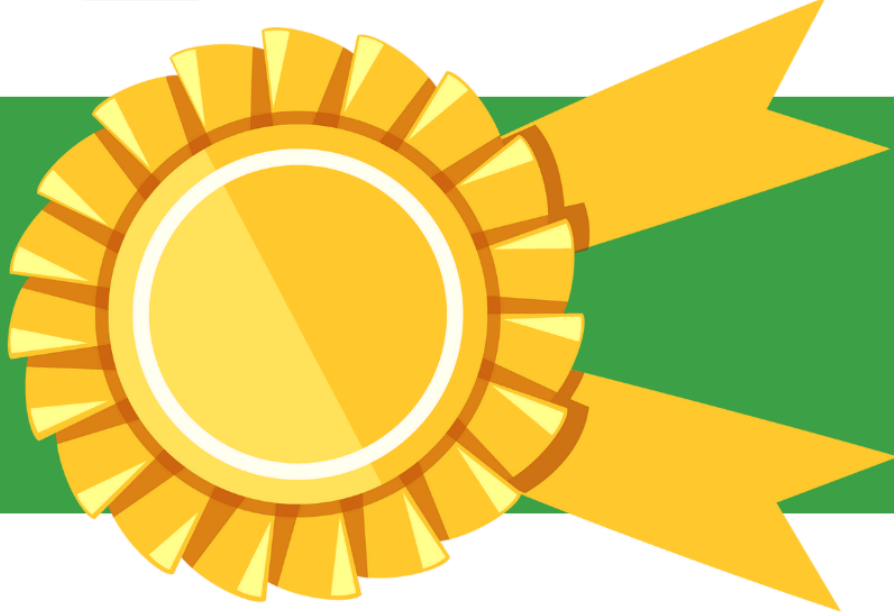
For showing skill and confidence in leading today's Class Meeting.

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...

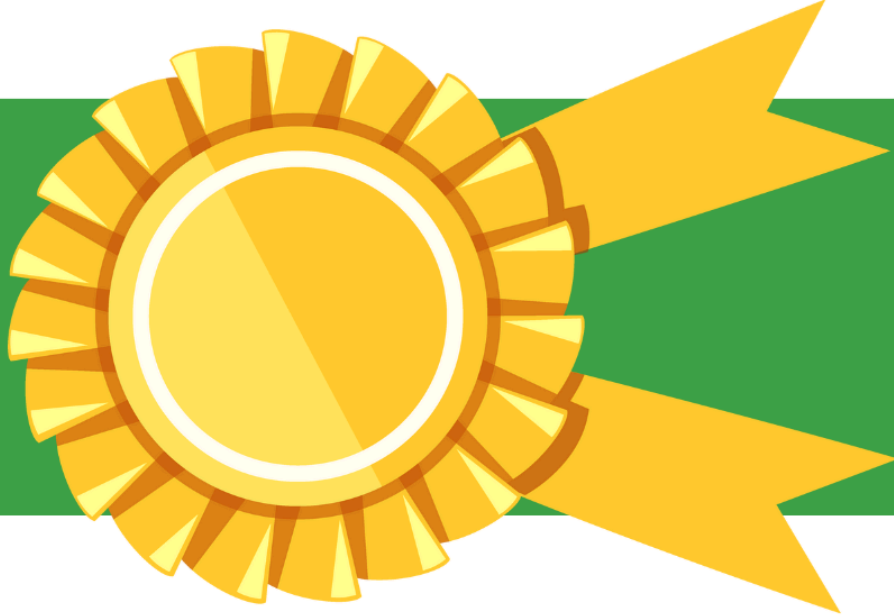
For speaking up with a great new idea on today's topic. Amazing.

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



Greg Sanderson

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