ESU TEACHING RESOURCE

The ESU is giving away more than 100 Discover Debating programs to primary schools. For more information visit www.esu.org/our-work/discover-debating

Introduction to Reasoning

Week 1

Learning Objective:

To understand that opinions need to be supported with reasons.

Introduction: (10 minutes)

Chose a volunteer to help model the activity. You and your volunteer should both select a character to become.

[Volunteer's character and your character] are in a hot air balloon, flying over dangerous shark infested waters. The balloon starts running out of air and is beginning to sink. In order to survive, we must throw one person overboard. Who should it be?

Discuss who should be saved, ensuring the pupils give a clear **reason** for their **opinion**.

CFU Check pupils have understood that a clear reason must be given. Use the prompt 'Why? Because…' to stimulate responses.

Main Activity: Balloon Debate (30-40 minutes)

Separate the class into groups of 4-5. Arrange some chairs at the front of the room to represent the hot air balloon. Ask each group to nominate a representative who will go in the balloon. Each representative will take on a character. They could be assigned a character by the teacher, or develop one themselves. See *Hints & Tips* for suggestions.

Allow the groups 5-10 minutes to prepare the reasons why their representative should stay in the balloon. Each group should develop 2 or 3 reasons.

CFU Ensure all the pupils have at least 2 clear reasons for their character.
Each group representative will take their place in the 'balloon' and take it in turns to present their reasons. Then allow the audience members to evaluate the reasons and vote on who should be thrown out of the balloon. There is another round of presentations and another vote. You can have as many or as few rounds as you like.

Plenary: (10 minutes)

Discuss what made some reasons more effective than others. Reflect on the learning objectives; ask the pupils to use the expected attainment targets to self-assess their progress in the lesson.

ESU RESOURCES:

None

Other resources:
none

Time: 50 – 60 minutes

Group size: up to 30, groups of 4-5

KEY VOCABULARY:

Opinion
Reason
Evaluate

DIFFERENTIATION:

Allow the pupils to work in mixed ability groups to promote peer support.

Extension for more able pupils:
Pupils can give a reason, justification and example for their character.

HINTS & TIPS:

Suggested characters:
Political figures
Musicians
Fictional characters
Historical figures

Chosen characters do not need to have a common theme

Word Bank:
It would be useful to keep an ongoing word bank of effective persuasive vocabulary that the pupils can add to as they progress through the sessions.

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Expected Attainment:

MUST: AD1
SHOULD: AD2
COULD: AD3

Expected Attainment:

MUST: Be able to understand the meaning of the terms Point & Explanation.
SHOULD: Give a Point supported by an Explanation.
COULD: Justify their opinion by using an Example.