ESU TEACHING RESOURCE

REBUTTAL CATCH

OVERVIEW

This activity gives students the opportunity to practise rebutting arguments. Larger groups should divide into two before beginning this activity.

OBJECTIVES

- Prompts students to start to think about points critically, and come up with effective questions and responses.

RESOURCES

A ball
Some topics, e.g.
This House would make children do chores to earn pocket money
This House would require the media to display, promote and report women's sport equally to men's sport
This House would give celebrities harsher punishments for their crimes than ordinary people
This House would ban private schools

TASK

Students are divided into two groups – proposition and opposition, and given a motion to consider for a few minutes. Then, they form a circle. An object is given to one student, who begins by giving an argument for their side of the house.

They then the object, and the student catching it gives a piece of rebuttal (if on the other side of the house) or a further explanation of the same point (if on the same side of the house). The object is thrown again, with the same rules applying (thus, a student who feels their argument needs a bit more work can 'ask for help', and the group as a whole sees good work modelled, rather than the format forcing us to accept off topic digressions or non-responses).