

Adjustment Level: Lower Intermediate-Advance

Target Skill to be improved: Speaking and Reasoning

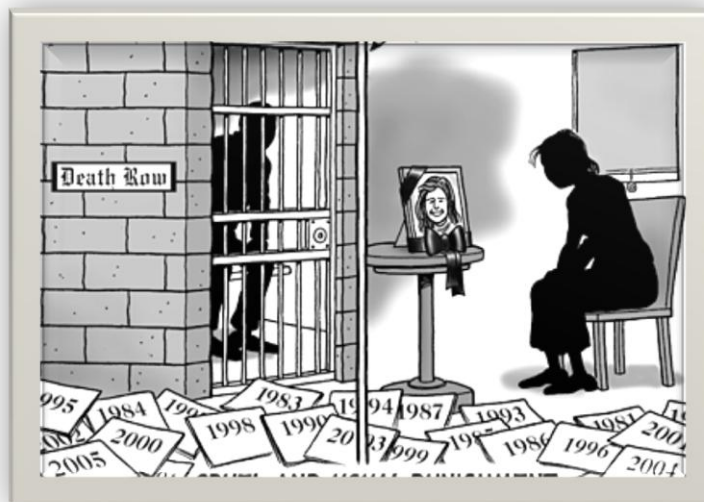
Title: Debate is Fun (Free conversation)

Topic for Debate: **Criminals should be executed**

Introduction: This lesson gives the student more speaking opportunities in expressing his thoughts that would improve his/her speaking and reasoning skills. The student would also learn various expressions for agreeing and disagreeing.



Resolved: **That criminals should be executed.**



IDEA GENERATOR

Pros

- The principle of capital punishment is that certain murderers deserve nothing less than death as a just, proportionate and effective punishment.
- Capital punishment is 100% effective as a deterrent to the criminal being executed; that killer cannot commit any more crimes.
- Some criminals are beyond rehabilitation; it may be that capital punishment should be reserved for serial killers, terrorists, murderers of policemen and so on.

Cons

- Execution is, in simplest terms, state-sanctioned killing, and it devalues the respect we place on human life; how can we say that killing is wrong if we sanction killing criminals?
- Higher execution rates can actually increase violent crime rates.
- Capital punishment costs more than life without parole.

See for example:

Person A: "In my opinion, I believe that criminals should be executed to threaten those who are planning to commit crimes that they will also undergo the same capital punishment."

Person B: "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that it's a violation of the human rights-the right to live."

Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Stating an opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In my opinion...• The way I see it...• If you want my honest opinion....• According to Lisa...• As far as I'm concerned...• If you ask me...
Asking for an opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's your idea?• What are your thoughts on all of this?• How do you feel about that?• Do you have anything to say about this?• What do you think?• Do you agree?• Wouldn't you say?
Expressing agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I agree with you 100 percent.• I couldn't agree with you more.• That's so true.• That's for sure.• (slang) Tell me about it!• You're absolutely right.• Absolutely.• That's exactly how I feel.• Exactly.• I'm afraid I agree with James.• I have to side with Dad on this one.• No doubt about it.• (agree with negative statement) Me neither.• (weak) I suppose so./I guess so.• You have a point there.• I was just going to say that.
Expressing disagreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I don't think so.• (strong) No way.• I'm afraid I disagree.• (strong) I totally disagree.• I beg to differ.• (strong) I'd say the exact opposite.• Not necessarily.• That's not always true.• That's not always the case.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No, I'm not so sure about that.
Interruptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can I add something here?• Is it okay if I jump in for a second?• If I might add something...• Can I throw my two cents in?• Sorry to interrupt, but...• (after accidentally interrupting someone) Sorry, go ahead. OR Sorry, you were saying...• (after being interrupted) You didn't let me finish.
Settling an argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Let's just move on, shall we?• Let's drop it.• I think we're going to have to agree to disagree.• (sarcastic) Whatever you say./If you say so.