

Adjustment Level: Lower Intermediate-Advance

Target Skill to be improved: Speaking and Reasoning

Title: Debate is Fun (Free conversation)

Topic for Debate: **Limits and regulations should be placed on how candidates raise funds, and/or spend them during political campaigns**

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 limits and regulations should be placed on how candidates raise funds, and/or spend them during political campaigns.**



IDEA GENERATOR

Pros

- Reform has the effect of levelling the playing field for candidates. Candidates of enormous leadership potential but small wallets have failed due to the lack of resources.
- Campaign finance reform advances the goal of a broader marketplace of ideas, advancing the objectives of free speech, assembly, and thought.
- Campaign finance reform gives the individual donor a voice more comparable to other interests
- Campaign finance reform will make elections more competitive, thus resulting in more turnover or "fresh blood" in politics

Cons

- Even under the most radical proposals for reform, loopholes exist that enable candidates to spend more or reach their audiences through alternative means
- Most campaign finance reform proposals actually have the effect of limiting speech. By limiting the amount of money a candidate can spend, what they can spend it on, and the time and nature of the message they can send, candidates' speech is limited.

See for example:

Person A: "In my opinion, I believe that limits and regulation should be placed so that the public will be aware on how politicians behave during campaigns to make sure that everything is not ill-gotten."

Person B: "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that it's the politicians' prerogative on how to raise and earn money during political campaigns."

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.