

Adjustment Level:	Lower Intermediate-Advance
Target Skill to be improved:	Speaking and Reasoning
Title:	Debate is Fun (Free conversation)
Topic for Debate:	There should be a tax on property at the time of death

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: **There should be a tax on property at the time of death.**



IDEA GENERATOR

Pros

- Although historically developed to finance wars, the estate tax is an important continuing source of revenue.
- The estate tax is a progressive tax that promotes economic equality by taxing the rich more than the poor.
- The estate tax prevents the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, avoiding a plutocracy (government by a wealthy ruling class). It allows the pursuit of the American dream by limiting the power of “old money.”

Cons

- Historically, estate taxes have only been enacted to raise money in times of war. These taxes were repealed soon after the war.
- The estate tax is unfair, placing a disproportionate share of the tax burden on a few. It fails to achieve the goals of economic equality suggested by its supporters
- The death tax is also double taxation, raiding again money that has already been taxed once when it was first earned.

See for example:

Person A: “In my opinion, I believe that the estate tax is a progressive tax that promotes economic equality by taxing the rich more than the poor”.

Person B: “I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that the death tax is also double taxation, raiding again money that has already been taxed once when it was first earned.”

Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

<p>Stating an opinion</p>	<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...
<p>Asking for an opinion</p>	<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?
<p>Expressing agreement</p>	<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.
<p>Expressing disagreement</p>	<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. • No, I'm not so sure about that.
<p>Interruptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can I add something here? • Is it okay if I jump in for a second?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.