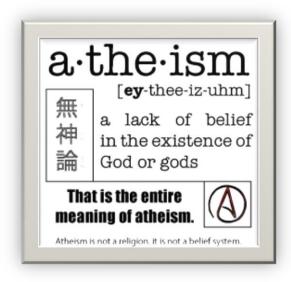|	
Adjustment Level:	Lower Intermediate-Advance
Target Skill to be improved:	Speaking and Reasoning
Title:	Debate is Fun (Free conversation)
Topic for Debate:	**Government should promote atheism**

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 governments should promote atheism**

a·the·ism

[**ey**-thee-iz-uhm]

無神論

a lack of belief in the existence of God or gods

That is the entire meaning of atheism.

Atheism is not a religion, it is not a belief system.

IDEA GENERATOR

Pros

- Atheism means no conflict in religion.
- The government can operate well without the church interventions.
- Government should promote atheism so that the prevailing conflicts among different religions will be stopped.

Cons

- There's nothing to be compared with a morally upright society.
- Religion makes a person moral.
- The government can already pass laws without moral considerations based on religion.

See for example:

Person A: "In my opinion, I believe that government should promote atheism so that the prevailing conflicts among different religions will be stopped."

Person B: "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that religion makes a person moral. Religion binds us to the belief of the supreme being who is God."

Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Stating an opinion	- 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 opinon	- 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	- 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	- 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.
Interruptions	• 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	• 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.