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 news blackout to avoid controversies brought to the government**

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 there should be news blackout to avoid controversies brought to the government.**

IDEA GENERATOR

Pros

- News blackout is necessary especially on issues that are very confidential.
- There are issues and events that are confidential.
- Not all issues are made to be known, this is for security purposes.

Cons

- The public always has the right to know.
- Transparency is important.

See for example:

Person A: "In my opinion, I believe that news blackout is necessary especially on issues that are very confidential."

Person B: "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that the public always has the right to know."

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.