

### Teaching Debate - Step-By-Step.

- **Start with teaching discussion**

<b>Teach the basics</b>	For/Against, Agree/Disagree with opinion/statement
<b>Teach the value of giving reasons</b>	Give examples, ask students to choose the strongest reasons and say why. Writing it down will be faster than speaking it out initially. Be patient.
<b>Give worksheets to help them at the start</b>	Example sentences to agree or disagree in a nice way. "Your opinion is good, but I think....because.... Give some choices and let them choose the sentence they like best. Their own sentences will come in time.
<b>Use easy and interesting topics for students- something that relates to them.</b>	Eg. "High School uniforms are a good idea", "Dogs are better pets than cats."
<b>Keep it at a slow pace for the beginning</b>	If you think the above is too difficult, it's easy to adjust the level. Eg. Ask students if they prefer dogs or cats and write 1 reason why. This is still progress while keeping the goal in mind.
<b>Put them into groups</b>	Give a topic, brainstorming, deciding opinions and giving a reason for each opinion.
<b>Write basic sentences within the group and one person read out the sentences.</b>	Listening to classmate's opinions and reasons helps them to 1. give their own in front of a class and 2. gives them more ideas about how they can say their opinion.

- **Move on to Debate**

<b>Explain the procedure</b>	This is very difficult for students to understand and remember. Worksheets and flowchart activities are invaluable.
<b>Explain debate terminology</b>	The terminology is very difficult for students. Matching exercises with Japanese terms and English terms-JTE can help you with making these.
<b>Make groups and give topics</b>	Put students into 6 groups – 3 for and 3 against. 3 should argue "for" and 3 should argue "against"
<b>Teach about evidence and reasons</b>	Different kinds of evidence. Give examples of reasons and let them decide which is a stronger reason and why. Why is important here, this takes time for them to get used to.
<b>Evaluation and self-evaluation</b>	Make simple evaluation forms-scoring and directions clear and easy to follow.
<b>Students as judges for in-class debate</b>	If students judge other student's debates then they can understand better what points are important. Give them example report sentences to use and let them give a feedback report of who won and why.  "In our opinion Team A won the debate because their reasons were stronger as they used expert opinions. Also Group B had only 2 points but Group B had 3 points.
<b>Debate Contest</b>	Preparation is key. Start in time to research and write various drafts for constructive speeches, etc. Most schools that win the prefectural contests start practicing before summer break!
<b>WARNING</b>	Debate contests can get VERY competitive, for ALTs and for students. Don't take it too seriously!