



Social Sciences
Week 12–20 September

20
26

EVENT KIT HOST YOUR OWN SSW26 DEBATE

SUPPORT RESOURCE



seriously
social



EVENT KIT: HOST YOUR OWN SSW26 DEBATE

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Introduction

The resource provides a step-by-step guide to assist you to host a debate in your school or community group during Social Sciences Week 2026. In this kit you'll find links to free resources to help you prepare your debate, printable posters to promote your event, and certificates of participation to print.

Step-by-step: How to host an event

- ➡ Choose a date, time and place during Social Sciences Week 12-20 September 2026
- ➡ Explore the [Seriously Social Debating Guide](#) to brush up on the basics of debating roles, and how to organise your space
- ➡ Choose a topic – pick from one of [Seriously Social's free debate kits](#) or choose your own
- ➡ Gather your teams and prepare your arguments
- ➡ Elect a timekeeper, chairperson and adjudicator
- ➡ Print and customise the event poster and invite your audience
- ➡ Hold your debate!
- ➡ Take some pictures and share with us on socials using the hashtags #seriouslysocial and #SSW2026
- ➡ Print and distribute certificates of participation to your debaters, timekeeper, chairperson and adjudicator

Tips to make your event shine

Pick an engaging topic

Choose a topic that will be interesting to your audience.



Be prepared!

Have your teams had enough time to prepare good arguments?
Is the space you've chosen comfortable with enough seating?
Will your speakers need a microphone to be heard?

Think about potential problems in advance to reduce issues on the day.



Get people thinking

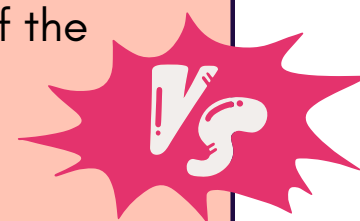
In the lead up to the debate, get people thinking by posting fun facts about the topic in the newsletter, on socials or in the classroom.



Up the ante!

Raise the stakes a little and make the outcoming more exciting with one of the following ideas:

- a teachers versus students debate
- an Audience's Choice vote on the most engaging speaker
- in the lead up to the event, ask students to indicate which side they support by dropping counters in labelled jars



Involve the audience!

Before the debate, ask the audience to indicate if they support the affirmative or negative viewpoint.

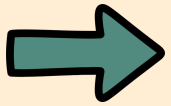
Ask again at the end of the debate and see who has changed their mind.



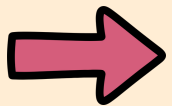
#SSW2026

The Great Debate

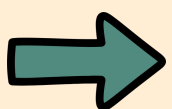
Topic



Day &
Time



Place



CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

The Great Debate

Awarded to:

Topic:

Date:

Signed:



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