

Context Is Everything!

DEBATING & PUBLIC
SPEAKING RESOURCES



Masters Academy

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Context Is Everything!

Activity

Overview

In this activity, students are given a small amount of time to create an introduction (context) that is interesting and engaging.

Instructions

Start with a simple topic like 'That schools should stop using paper' and give students 2 minutes to write a contextualisation for the affirmative or negative side, starting with the signposting phrase:

"We live in a world where..."

These speeches should be no longer than 30 seconds. Coaches should repeat this exercise with new topics asking for more outlandish introductions with distinct characterisation and stances.

The time given to complete the task should be reduced as new topics are given. The culmination of this activity can be a 'context off' where the two most confident students in the class create a context for opposing sides of a given topic, with the class eventually voting on the winner.

Suggested Topics:

Stage 3

That public transport should be free

That all schools should have student run vegetable gardens

That all primary school classes should have a pet

Stage 4

That people who don't recycle should be fined

That we should mandate that students spend 1 day a week being taught outside

That it should be compulsory for schools to teach students how to swim