



the CAMBRIDGE UNION

Defending Free Speech Since 1815

Exemplar Debate Motions

These are just some examples of debate motions to use for showcase debates or in lessons.

TH refers to This House: THB (believes); THW (would); THS (supports); THR (regrets).

THW abolish prison as a punishment for non-violent crimes

THBT parliament members should be appointed by a lottery among the general population

THS a guaranteed minimum income

THW ban public opinion polls

THW tax fast food

THW make teachers' pay contingent upon the performance of their students

THW tie foreign aid to environmental standards

THW allow the use of performance enhancing drugs in competitive sports

THBT international sports should not be hosted in countries with a poor human rights record

THW make voting mandatory

TH disapproves of cloning

THB that affluent nations should accept more refugees

THW pay reparations for the slave trade



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THB money is the key to happiness

THW remove a soldier's ability to feel fear

THB that the media has become too powerful

THS an 100% inheritance tax

THS quotas for women in parliament

THS the death penalty

THW eliminate trial by jury

THB that rehabilitation should be the only consideration in criminal sentencing

THW abolish all medical drug patents

THW legalise all drugs (ie cocaine, heroine, marijuana, etc)

THW pay housewives/husbands a living wage

THW privatise the oceans

THW give two votes to people under the age of 30

THB in romantic love

THB that humanities courses should be part of every undergraduate programme

This House Would allow parents who have been sent to prison to raise their children behind bars

THW ban the use of unethically obtained data in scientific research

THB that Holocaust denial should be a crime



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This House Supports a Privilege Tax

THW pay MPs the average national salary

THW ban government funding of the arts

THW ban the use of models who are below a healthy weight

THW legalise Prostitution

THW cut off all development aid to non-democratic countries

THW ban abortion except in cases where the mother's health is at risk

THB that national security should take precedence over individual rights

THW execute war criminals

THW force organizations to place more women in senior positions

THBT Strong dictatorships are better than weak democracies

THB that gambling of all forms should be illegal

THB that full-time students should take part in compulsory charity work

THW actively encourage women not to have children

THB parents have the right to track their children

THB that governments should not place limits in the areas which scientists may research

TH prefers a world where every looks and sounds the same

THB that the West should end all arms sales and military cooperation with Saudi Arabia

THB that sporting boycotts are a legitimate political tool



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THW ban photoshopping human beings in ads and magazines

THB that the feminist movement should seek a ban on pornography

THW cut welfare support on compulsive gamblers

TH prefers a world with no belief in the afterlife

THW adopt blind voting in all elections for public office

THB that important decisions about children's health should be made by medical professionals and not by their parents

THB democracy is a necessary condition for economic growth and stability

This house Supports the extra judicial killings of known gang leaders

THB everyone should learn history

THR the influence of YouTube on popular culture

THWN allow government schools to teach religious studies

THW require citizens take and pass a general knowledge test in order to vote

THW allow prisoners to choose death over life sentence

THBT drug addiction should be treated as an illness rather than a crime

This House regrets that Western Media has demonised Islamic terrorists

TH regrets the rise of anonymous accounts on social media

THB that gay rights organisations should out gay public figures

THB that the United States should withdraw from the Middle East



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THW not make liberal arts courses mandatory in secondary school (age 11-16)

THB that Universal Primary Education is a misallocation of resources for the developing world

THB in God

THW stop sending humans into space

THW penalise sporting teams for the poor behaviour of their fans

TH supports free immigration

THBT liberal supreme courts should misinterpret the constitution to advance progressive rights

THW offer dictators immunity in return for leaving power

THR the rise of the gig economy.

THW lower voting age to 16

THW legalise euthanasia

THB that public services are best run by private companies

THR the rise of citizen journalism

THW require people to work in return for welfare payments

THW let students chose vocational subjects in secondary school

THW ban meat

THW introduce an annual purge



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THW pay politicians the median wage in their country

TH prefers cats over dogs

THW send its children to private school

THR the rise of feminism

THW legalise the sale of human organs

THB terrorism can be justified

THW ban boxing

THB all nations have a right to nuclear weapons

This House would require people to take long acting reversible contraception until they pass a parenting test

THW prisoners to vote

THW pay housewives for their work

TH, as the US government, would arm teachers

THB animals have rights

THW abolish the monarchy

THB colonisation of another country can be justified

THB patriotism has done more harm than good

THB reality TV does more harm than good



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This House believes that religious leaders should not involve themselves in politics (e.g. by endorsing candidates in elections, forming political parties, running for office)

THW introduce same sex only schools for LGBT+ students

**With younger students motions that relate directly to them are most effective such as those which relate to school, parents, social media etc.*