

## Activity Type

Speaking Activity:  
guided discussion,  
communicative practice  
(group work)

## Focus

Critical thinking  
Asking for and giving  
opinions  
Agreeing and disagreeing

## Aim

Use critical thinking  
skills to discuss a set of  
controversial statements.

## Preparation

Make one copy of the  
questions for each  
group of four and cut as  
indicated.

## Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

## Time

30 minutes

## Introduction

This critical thinking speaking activity provides an opportunity for students to use their critical thinking skills to discuss a set of controversial statements.

## Procedure

Divide the students into groups of four.

Give each group a set of statements.

Each group reads the statements and chooses three of them to discuss.

Students then have five minutes to discuss each statement and come up with an response, noting down the reasons for their opinions and any considerations they made.

When all three statements have been discussed, each group chooses a spokesperson to present the group's responses to the class.

After each group has presented, get feedback from the rest of the class on their views.

Any interesting findings can then be discussed in more detail.



Online learning is better than learning in a classroom.

Child obesity is caused by bad parenting.

Climate change is the greatest threat to human existence.

Freedom of speech is necessary for a functioning society.

Zoos should be banned.

Barbie is an inappropriate toy for young girls.

Peer pressure can be beneficial to a young person's development.

The advertising of fast food should be banned.

Mobile phones should be banned in schools.

A university degree is necessary for a successful future.