

WORLD ISSUES AND EVENTS (DEBATING AND DISCUSSION) Levels B1, B2, C1, C2

Kyle Weinandy

What's on your mind? Are you passionate about world events, contemporary social issues, ethics, the environment, technological advances or politics?

Now you have the chance to participate in a forum where these topics will be hotly debated and discussed in detail.

All points of view are welcome.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The main aim of this course is to help students improve their confidence and performance in oral English in two slightly different modes:

Debating, in different formats, according to pre-established rules, in which you are given a role, and have to defend or attack a case

Discussion, in which you share your ideas and encourage other students to share theirs, on a wide range of topics, some chosen in advance. Topics may be the same as those of the formal debates, or completely different: do you speak better when you are forced to speak, as in a debate, or when you can choose your moment, as in a discussion? We shall see!

COURSEWORK

Students will take it in turns to prepare topics for class discussion. For certain types of debate, they will also be expected to write speeches in advance. Reading the international press regularly, in order to keep abreast of topical events and issues is required. A different student each week will write a summary of the debate or discussion that took place in class, with a glossary of the key words and concepts.

Students will write one essay during the term (argumentative or discursive) to show that they can do it in writing too!

GRADING

20% Regular Participation in Class

20% Oral (4 mini présentations & participation during discussion)

30% Written & Assignments (Weekly exercises)

20% Autonomous Project

10% Final Exam