

## ENGLISH HELPSHEET

### DEBATING

#### Stating the object of the discussion

The purpose of this discussion is to ...  
We'd like to ask you to consider the following questions...  
We'd like to proceed in the following way: ...  
As we have just heard ...  
What we'd like to do is...

#### Asking for opinions

What are your views **on** that / feelings **about** that?  
What's your opinion **about** that?  
Any reactions **to** that?  
Has anybody any comments to make?  
I'd like to hear your view / your ideas **on** this.  
How do you see this?

#### Giving opinions

I think / believe / feel (that) ...  
It seems to me (that) ...  
In my opinion / view, ...  
As I see it, ...  
As far as I'm concerned, ...  
If you ask me, ...

#### Being more precise

By this I (do not) mean ...  
In fact, ...  
In other words, ...  
That is to say, ...

#### Linking expressions

First of all / Firstly, ...  
Secondly / Then / Next, ...  
In addition / What's more / Also, ...  
However / On the other hand / Then again, ...  
For example / For instance, ...  
In my experience, ...  
Naturally / Understandably, ...  
Indeed / In fact, ...

#### Citing

Scientists / The latest research show(s)/ state(s)/ assert(s)/ argue(s)/ claim(s) that ...  
Our/ her/ their argument/ claim/ point is that...

## **Agreeing**

I agree.  
(That's) right / true.  
(I think) you're right.  
I couldn't agree more.

As you said ...  
I am largely in agreement with ...  
Along the lines of your argument, I would say that ...

## **Disagreeing**

(I'm afraid) I don't agree / I disagree.  
That's not how I see it.  
I wouldn't say that.

That may be true, but ...  
I take / see your point, but ...  
I agree up to a point, but ...  
Be that as it may, the real issue is still...  
But don't you think ...?

My disagreement with you is that ...  
I believe that you are incorrect when you argue that ...  
I would argue that...  
The weakness of your argument lies in your assertion that ...  
I am uncertain whether ...  
I am just concerned that...

## **Dealing with interruptions and irrelevancies**

I see what you mean, but I think you're losing sight of the main point.  
That's not really the point. We're here to discuss ...  
I take your point but can we please stick to the main subject?

## **Summarizing the main points and concluding**

I think we've covered most of ...  
I think that we can leave it at that for today.  
Let's agree to disagree.  
Thank you very much to all of you for a stimulating debate.  
It has been a very interesting discussion. Thank you all.