

Lesson Name : 5

Lesson Title : Debatable Topic Speech: Questionnaires

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

Task Id : 52048964

Course Id : 15020



**Essential Instruction**

In this lesson, you will begin to work on a project in which you give a short speech defending your position on a particular topic. This project has three steps. Each step corresponds to a lesson in your eCourse. The steps are:

Step 1: Complete a questionnaire in which you express your opinions about debatable topics, and then interview others to gather their opinions and ideas.

Step 2: Choose one of the debatable topics from the questionnaire and develop a draft of a speech.

Step 3: Give a short speech defending your opinion on the debatable topic.

In this lesson, you will complete step 1 of the project.

### **Step 1 Overview**

For this step of the project, you will complete a questionnaire and practice your interview skills by choosing five people to talk to about the debatable statements on the questionnaire.

The debatable statements on the questionnaire are broad statements that revolve around themes and messages that you will find in literary works such as the novel *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding. By exploring your and others' opinions about these ideas, you will be better able to recognize these themes and messages when you read literature. You will also get experience discussing debatable issues with other people, comparing and contrasting your opinions, and evaluating and evolving your opinions.

### **Debatable Statements Questionnaire: My Opinions**

The first part of this assignment is to record your own opinions about the debatable topics. Download this [worksheet](#). Once you have downloaded the worksheet, make sure to save it. You will turn this worksheet in as part of your assessment.

Start by filling in the first chart with your opinions. In each row of the left column, you will see a debatable statement, such as *Human nature is inherently good*. Read through the statements and take a few minutes to think about each one. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Why? What have you read, experienced, and seen that helps you to form your opinion? What evidence can you think of to support your opinion?

Once you have thought about your answer, you can begin to fill in the other columns. State whether you agree or disagree with the statement. Then give a 3-5 sentence explanation of your opinion. In this explanation, you can talk about how your experiences have shaped your opinion and provide evidence to support your opinion.

Repeat this process for each of the five statements in the first chart.

When you are finished, make sure to save your work in a location that you can easily access.

## Debatable Statements Questionnaire: Interviews

The next step of this assignment may take a little more time to complete. For this step, you will need to find five people to interview. You will be asking for their opinions about the same five debatable statements and recording their answers. You should use the remaining charts in the worksheet to record your interviews.

First, you need to choose five people to interview. Try to find a variety of people. You might choose a family member, a friend, a teacher, a coach, a neighbor, a librarian, a guidance counselor, a teammate, or any other person who you feel can offer a unique perspective on these statements. Try to choose people who are different in age, gender, career, or other aspects so you can get a range of opinions.

If you are having difficulty finding five people, contact your teacher for this course. Your teacher will be able to help you find five people to interview.

Once you have chosen the people you will interview, talk to them and fill out the charts on the worksheet. Make sure to write the name of the person you're interviewing at the top of each chart so you can keep track of your information.

As you interview each person, make sure to give them time to consider the statement and whether they agree or disagree. You should also ask them to explain their opinion and write down their reasoning in the explanation column.

When you are finished interviewing the five people you chose, save your work in a location where you can easily access it.

## Analyzing Your Work

Now that you've gathered a variety of opinions about each debatable statement, take a few minutes to analyze the data. You will have to discuss your observations as part of the assessment, so it might help to take notes as you work, so you can refer to them later.

For each statement, consider the following questions.

- How many people agreed with this statement?
- Were their explanations similar? What similarities did you notice?
- Were their explanations different? What differences did you notice?
- How many people disagreed with this statement?
- Were their explanations similar? What similarities did you notice?
- Were their explanations different? What differences did you notice?
- Did any of your opinions change after talking to other people? If so, which ones? Why did they change?

One of the enriching parts of discussing debatable topics with other people is expanding your perspective and learning to thoughtfully acknowledge other people's opinions. By analyzing the responses that you received for this assignment, you can begin to do this. Even people who share an opinion may have entirely different reasons for thinking the way they do.

Think about what you learned by hearing other people's perspectives. Even if your opinion did not change, you might better understand where a person with the opposite opinion is coming from. What experiences and evidence did that person discuss as they supported their opinion? Do you think there is anything that you could say to refute that person's evidence? How would you present a counterargument to that person to make your case for the opposite side?

Consider these questions as you continue to work on this project.