

Debate: Brexit Copycats

An activity of "Britain's sad decision to leave Europe"

In the August issue of *What's Up*, there are two articles about a very important decision that Britain has made. British citizens have voted in favour of Britain leaving the European Union (EU). Read "**Lesson from Britain: voters can fail badly**" (page 1) and "**Britain's sad decision to leave Europe**" (page 6) for details.

Strength lies in numbers for alliances like the EU. Britain leaving will have a big impact because it is one of the largest economies in the world. Many people are now wondering whether other member countries will also want to leave the EU. Some even speculate the EU will not survive after Brexit. What do you think?

Have a free-for-all debate in your class to help you think through this complex issue. Unlike traditional debates with only four speakers per team, this free-for-all format allows for any number of speakers from each side.

THE MOTION

That other member countries will also decide to leave the European Union as a result of Brexit.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Split your class into two halves: one side for the motion, and the other side against the motion. You can either draw lots or sign up for the side you prefer on a first-come-first-served basis.
2. Get ready for the debate by having each team's members seated together, facing the other team. Each team selects a captain. During the debate, the captains decide who gets to speak and when. The captains also keep track of time.
3. Read pages 1 and 6 of *What's Up* August 2016. As a team, brainstorm about the motion. Jot down key points. You may surf the internet to get more information. Don't write full speeches – you need the flexibility to be spontaneous and responsive to your opponents.
4. Conduct the debate. Every speaker gets only five minutes. The team for the motion starts and ends the debate. The teams take turns for as many rounds as your class has time for. During a team's turn, only one speaker from that team gets to speak. When you want to speak, put up your hand and wait for your captain to pick you.
5. If you wish to select winners, then the whole class votes for the three best speakers from each side. Otherwise, your class may prefer to enjoy the debate without worrying about winning (or losing). That way, everyone remains relaxed and focused on the arguments being voiced.