



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Free-for-all Debate

An activity of "Remembering World War 2"

Every February, schools have activities and talks about the importance of Total Defence. By now, you probably know what Total Defence means. The hope is that, if every person does his or her part, then we can have world peace instead of wars. Most people value peace. Some people firmly believe a world without wars is possible. Others are sure that, while hoping for peace is good, there will always be wars. What do you think?

Have a free-for-all debate in your class to help you construct your own understanding of war and peace. Unlike traditional debates which have only four speakers per team, this free-for-all format allows for any number of speakers from each side.

THE MOTION

"That global peace is only a fantasy."

PREPARE FOR THE DEBATE

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 two captains decide who gets to speak and when. The **captains** also keep track of time.
3. **Read** pages 6 to 13 of *What's Up* February 2017 to get started. 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.

CONDUCT THE DEBATE

4. 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.