



Name: _____

Class: ____ Date: _____

Free-for-all Debate

An activity of "World's tallest statue"

India now has the tallest statue in the world — the Statue of Unity. Read **"World's tallest statue"** (page 10, *What's Up* July 2019) to learn about the arguments surrounding this statue. Many people strongly oppose so much money and land being used for this statue, although the statue is of a beloved freedom fighter, Sardar Patel. Others believe the resources were well spent. 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 the potential benefits for ordinary people in Gujarat justify the high costs of building the Statue of Unity.

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 page 10 of *What's Up* July 2019. 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.