



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Free-for-All Debate

*An activity of "Visiting Japan after the horrors..."*

Read "**Visiting Japan after the horrors of the Occupation years**" (page 10, *What's Up* January 2020). The author writes about her expectation that countries like Japan should apologise more for what they did during World War 2. Like her, many people firmly believe that saying sorry for your country's past wrongdoings is a big part of peace-making. Others do not see why current leaders should apologise for deeds done so long ago by previous leaders. What do you think?

Have a free-for-all debate in your class to help you construct your own understanding of growing 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 today's leaders should not have to apologise for their ancestors' war crimes."

#### 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, each captain decides who gets to speak from his or her team and in which order. The **captains** double up as timekeepers.
3. As a team, brainstorm about the motion. Jot down key points. You may surf the internet to get more information. Don't write full sentences. Instead, referring to only words and phrases will give you 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.