



Name: _____

Class: ____ Date: _____

Free-for-all Debate: Here or Abroad?

An activity of "Singaporeans send aid to Gaza"

When there is a crisis, people in Singapore rally to support the affected people. *What's Up* has shared many stories of ordinary people donating and volunteering to help others. For instance, hundreds chipped in to help foreign workers stuck here during the pandemic. Then there are those who help regularly at local community projects. We also respond to calls for help when there are floods, earthquakes, and wars abroad. "**Singaporeans send aid to Gaza**" (page 11, *What's Up* January 2026) reflects this earnest desire to help others in faraway places. Read the article to prepare for this activity.

No doubt, it is very good to help people who are facing big problems. Should we, though, first support our neighbours here instead of sending aid and volunteering elsewhere? What do you think?

Have a debate to examine this here-or-abroad dilemma. 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 it is better to help people in your own country than in other places."

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 decide which side to join based on your beliefs.

Note: If you are for the motion, your stand is clearly in favour of helping locally. If you are against the motion, you have a choice. You can either say that helping people abroad is better than helping locally or you can say that it is equally good to help here and abroad.

2. As a team, brainstorm about the motion and your team's stance. Jot down key points. All you need is your common sense, personal experiences of helping, and stories you have heard of people giving donations and volunteering. Don't write full sentences. Instead, jotting down only words and phrases will allow you to be flexible and spontaneous when you respond to the other side.

CONDUCT THE DEBATE

3. Get ready for the debate by having each team's members seated together, facing the other team. Select team **captains**. During the debate, the team's captain decides who speaks and in which order. The captains double up as **timekeepers**.
4. Every speaker gets only three minutes. The team for the motion starts and ends the debate. During a team's turn, only one speaker from that team gets to speak. When you want to do so, put up your hand and wait for your captain to pick you. The teams take turns until, ideally, all students have the chance to share their views.
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 stays relaxed and focused on the arguments being voiced. Wrap up the debate with a brief reflection on what the whole-class conclusions are about helping locally and abroad.