



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Free-for-all Debate

An activity of "More restaurant chains from China ... in Singapore"

Read "**More restaurant chains from China are opening outlets in Singapore**" (page 18, *What's Up* October 2026). While some people are happy about this trend, others are not. What are your thoughts about successful eateries from other countries setting up branches in Singapore?

Have a free-for-all debate in class to help you construct your own understanding of the local food sector. 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

"The benefits outweigh the drawbacks of having foreign restaurant outlets here."

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.

Note: If you are for the motion, you must convince the other side that there are more benefits than drawbacks. If you oppose the motion, you have a choice. You can either say that the drawbacks outweigh the benefits or that the benefits and drawbacks balance out each other.

2. Get ready for the debate by having each team's members seated together, facing the other team. Each team selects a captain. The team's captain decides who gets to speak from that 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 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.