

### **Motion: That everybody should have a pet**

P: Everyone should have a pet because it makes you more responsible

E: Pets need to be fed and taken for walks - you can't forget about them or get bored, you must be responsible.

E: For example, I feed my hamster every day - it shows I am trustworthy and can be relied on.

**You said...** that having a pet makes you more responsible  
**But I disagree because...** in your example you are reliable and feed your hamster, but many other children do not remember to look after their pets. Their parents look after the pets.

**So I think...** that having a pet doesn't mean you are always more responsible.

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### **Motion: That everybody should have a pet**

P: Everyone should have a pet because there are lots of animals who need loving homes.

E: There are lots of abandoned pets living in shelters and being cared for by animal charities.

E: For example, we have a cat that was rescued from a shelter. When we went there, I saw that there were lots of other cats and dogs that needed new homes.

**You said...** there are lots of animals that need a new family to look after them.

**But I disagree because...** not everyone is able to look after an animal well - if you gave them a pet anyway, then they might abandon the pet again, which is worse than it never being adopted at all.

**So I think...** that it would be better to make sure that all the pets are well looked after by charities, and not give them to individual families who may not look after them well.

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### **Motion: That no-one should eat meat**

P: No-one should eat meat, because it's wrong to kill animals.

E: Some animals are our friends, like dogs and cats - other animals are just as important, and it's not right to kill them.

E: For example, cows and sheep can be as friendly and loving as dogs and cats.

**You said...** it's wrong to kill animals, so we should never eat them.

**But I disagree because...** in your explanation you say other animals are as important as dogs and cats, but I don't think that's true, because they live on farms and not in our houses.

**So I think...** Cows and sheep are not as important as dogs and cats, and it's ok to eat them.

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### **Motion: That no-one should eat meat**

P: We should not ban people from eating meat, because lots of important meals contain meat

E: Some meals are really important to people - many families have favourite traditional dishes that include meat. They would be really unhappy if meat was banned - and it would ruin something that families love to do together.

E: For example, at weekends in my family we have one big meal together - everyone always looks forward to the main dish, and it wouldn't be the same if there wasn't any meat there.

**You said...** people should be allowed to keep eating meat because it's important at family events.

**But I disagree because...** those events are not important enough for animals to be dying, and you don't always have to eat meat at your meals.

**So I think...** the most important thing is to look after the animals - and that means not eating them.

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### **Motion: We should ban fried chicken shops**

P: We should close all the fried chicken shops because they're not healthy.

E: Some people go to the chicken shops every day after school and eat lots of fried food. It would be better to eat more fruit and vegetables.

E: For example, athletes like Mo Farah have to eat a healthy balanced diet so that they can run far and fast.

**You said...** fried chicken shops should all be closed because they are not healthy.

**But I disagree because...** even though some people go to the chicken shops every day, other people only eat it sometimes. If you only eat fried chicken sometimes, it can be part of a healthy diet. Maybe even Mo Farah eats fried chicken sometimes!

**So I think...** we should keep the chicken shops open, but tell people to eat some fruit and veg as well.

### **Motion: We should get rid of zoos**

P: We should ban zoos because it is cruel to keep animals in small cages...

E: ... In the wild animals are free, and sometimes travel large distances over big areas of land like forests and grassy plains.

E: For example, some elephants travel as much as 50 miles a day!

**You said...** it's cruel to keep animals in zoos

**But I disagree because...** not all animals need to travel large distances - for example, I've seen animals like monkeys and lemurs in the zoo, and they are happy playing on the ropes and branches in their enclosure.

**So I think...** we should not ban zoos - maybe instead we should just not have the really big animals like elephants if they are unhappy.

### **Motion: We should get rid of zoos**

P: We need to keep zoos open because they are a good place to keep animals safe.

E: In zoos, animals are safe. We can look after them well and make sure no-one attacks them or tries to kill them.

E: For example, the Californian Condor (a huge bird!) was saved from extinction because zoos and scientists worked really hard to understand them and keep them safe.

**You said...** animals need zoos to keep them safe - and if we don't, they might become extinct.

**But I disagree because...** not all animals are going to become extinct. For example, lots of zoos have deer and penguins, but there are lots of these animals - they will not be extinct!

**So I think...** zoos are unfairly keeping in cages lots of animals that do not need to be there, and we should set all these animals free.

### **Motion: Everyone should be taught cooking at school**

P: I think that all students should have to learn to cook in school...

E: ... because it's a really important skill that everybody needs - we all need to eat!

E: For example, my brother has just gone to university, and he has to cook for himself every day!

**You said...** everyone needs to learn cooking in school.

**But I disagree because...** cooking is something you do at home, not in a classroom. So it's best if you learn to cook at home as well.

**So I think...** people should learn cooking at home instead - then you can learn to make the food your family eats, not school food.

### **Motion: Sports stars are paid too much money**

P: My point today is that sports stars are paid too much money because they do not do a very important job.

E: Some jobs are very important, and save lives. Sports stars just play games like football, so it's not right that they get so much more money than people with important jobs.

E: For example, doctors and firefighters save people's lives - this is much more important than sports.

**You said...** Sports stars are paid too much and their job is not important.

**But I disagree because...** sports stars do have an important job - even if they are not saving lives, they have very special talents. Not everyone can be a great basketball player or a runner.

**So I think...** that it is fair to pay them a lot of money for their rare skills - sports stars are not paid too much.

### **Motion: We should make everyone vote**

P: It should be compulsory to vote -that means everybody must do it, whether they want to or not...

E: ... this is because we live in a democracy, and voting for the government is a very important responsibility for everyone to have.

E: For example, if there was an election tomorrow and you didn't vote, no-one would know what you thought or which politicians are the best leaders.

**You said...** it's really important to vote and so everyone must do it.

**But I disagree because...** even though voting is important, if it is compulsory then some people might vote in a silly way and not take it seriously. They might just think - I have to vote for someone, but I don't want to think carefully about who I vote for.

**So I think...** we should let people only vote if they want to - then only people who are taking it seriously will help to decide who is in charge.

### **Motion: We should ban children from watch TV on school nights**

P: I don't think that children should be allowed to watch TV on school nights, because you might get carried away and be too tired the next day.

E: Sometimes you start watching something, and then you just keep on watching TV until it's very late! Then the next day, you feel tired at school. It would be better not to watch TV at all.

E: For example, some episodes on TV shows end on "cliffhangers" - these are tense endings that make you really want to watch the next episode.

**You said...** Children might stay up too late, and so they shouldn't be allowed to watch TV on school nights.

**But I disagree because...** it's ok to watch TV if you only watch it for a bit - you might have rules in your house saying you can only watch a little bit of TV, or have to stop at a certain time.

**So I think...** children should be allowed to watch TV on school nights, but just not to stay up very very late.

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### **Motion: We should ban children from watching TV on school nights**

P: I think children should be allowed to watch TV on school nights because it's important to relax.

E: Some days are very busy, and when you come home you are very tired. Watching TV is a nice way to relax, and you might be too tired to do anything else.

E: For example, I go to football club on a Wednesday after school. By the time I get home, I'm too tired to play more games. I like to watch TV to relax.

**You said...** children should be allowed to watch TV to relax

**But I disagree because...** TV isn't always very relaxing. You think it is, because it's easy to watch TV. But actually, watching things on a screen can make it harder to relax or to feel sleepy.

**So I think...** if you're too tired even to read a book, maybe you could listen to an audiobook or play a quiet game. This would be more relaxing than TV, which should be for the weekend only.

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### **Motion: We should ban fried chicken shops**

P: We shouldn't ban fried chicken shops - people need to be allowed to choose what they eat

E: The government shouldn't just ban everything it doesn't like. Everyone should be allowed to make their own choices about the food they eat. We can all learn about how to have a healthy diet, and we can make good decisions about what we eat.

E: For example, the government doesn't ban other things that are not good for you - adults are allowed to drink alcohol and to smoke cigarettes, even though those things are unhealthy.

**You said...** the government can't ban things it doesn't like.

**But I disagree because...** there are actually lots of unhealthy things that are illegal. For example, you can't put dangerous things or poisons into food.

**So I think...** the government should be banning unhealthy things, such as fried chicken shops.

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### **Motion: Celebrities are good role models**

P: Celebrities are good role models because they work really hard to be good at what they do.

E: Famous footballers spend a lot of time practicing to be better at football. Famous singers and musicians also spend a lot of time working hard to give the best performances. This makes them good role models - we should all work hard at our skills and talents.

E: For example, most famous footballers have spent all their free time playing football, since they were very young. They have not had time to play other games or have other hobbies.

**You said...** celebrities are good role models because they teach us it is important to work hard.

**But I disagree because...** not all celebrities work hard. Some spend a lot of time at parties instead. They are famous because they're lucky, not because they worked hard.

**So I think...** celebrities aren't good role models - if you copied them, you might not be as lucky!

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### **Motion: We should ban cars from big cities**

P: We should ban cars from big cities because they cause lots of pollution

E: Cars cause lots of air pollution. This pollution is bad for everyone's health. It can cause problems like asthma.

E: For example, a little girl who lived by a really busy, really polluted road in London developed asthma, and doctors think it was because of all the traffic.

**You said...** we should ban cars because of the pollution they cause

**But I disagree because...** instead of banning cars we might be able to make them safer. Some kinds of cars cause less pollution than others, and in the future we may be able to have cars that are completely safe.

**So I think...** we should not ban cars: instead, we should make sure that they aren't causing pollution.