



# Reality television does more harm than good

Reality shows are incredibly popular. With blockbusting shows like *Survivor*, *Big Brother*, *The Apprentice*, and *American Idol* all attracting massive audiences each week.

Documentaries trying to explore social situations don't have such an appeal because they don't feel real enough. Reality is often criticised as it doesn't show a true representation of life, but an idealised version.

Points For	Points Against
Audiences are becoming used to the genre and as such the producers are trying harder to make the programmes more controversial in search of high ratings.	It is not becoming more corrupt or more filthy, in fact it has become a way to discuss what is and is not acceptable in society. <i>Big Brother</i> for example allowed people to talk about how people should interact with each other
They send a message that the cult of celebrity is important. Shameless self-promotion based on humiliating each other for their own gain. We need to promote better social values.	It encourages a shared sense of community and experiences. It functions like a social glue and binds us together. People are able to talk about the show without much seriousness so it's ideal for 'water cooler moments'.
They often show people with no talents, in fact they are ordinary in their behaviour. <i>Joe Millionaire</i> , where a group of women competed for the affections of a construction worker who they were told was a millionaire, was simply cruel. The emotions of the contestants were considered expendable for the sake of making viewers laugh at their ignorance.	We should face up to these issues rather than censor television in order to hide them. When Adam Lambert, an openly gay contestant on <i>American Idol</i> , lost in the final of the show despite being widely regarded as the best singer, many rightfully pointed out what it demonstrated about the homophobia of American society



# Useful language to use in formal debates

In general, you would need to come up with 4-5 main arguments to support your team's debating position. It's also important to remember to also anticipate the opposition's arguments to help you defend your team's point of view.

## **Building your Argument**

Introducing your point: To begin with... First of all...

Connecting your points: Also... Furthermore... What's more...

Showing importance: More importantly... What's worse... Above all else...

Giving examples: For instance... For example...

## **Opinions, Preferences:**

In my opinion..., The way I see it..., As far as I'm concerned..., If it were up to me..., I suppose..., I suspect that..., I'm pretty sure that..., I honestly feel that, Without a doubt...,

## **Disagreeing:**

Don't you think it would be better..., Shouldn't we consider..., But what about..., I'm afraid I don't agree..., Frankly, I doubt if..., The truth of the matter is..., The problem with your point of view is that..., It's a fact that..., According to ..., The reality of the situation is..., The numbers show that..., The fact is this:...,

## **Partially agreeing:**

I agree with you to a point however..., I see where you are coming from but..., I see what you are saying but ...,

## **Delaying Strategies**

I can't answer that directly..., I'll need time to think about that..., That's a very interesting question, because..., That's a difficult question to answer,

## **Asking someone to repeat**

Pardon me? Pardon? Excuse me? Sorry? I'm sorry? I beg your pardon?

## **Holding the floor**

Hold on..., Hold on a second..., Yes, I was about to mention that..., Well, I was about to come to that..., Sorry, I haven't finished yet ., I haven't made my point yet ...

## **Expressing solutions and alternatives**

The solution is to..., Then you will..., The best way to ... is ...,  
To ..., you really have to ..., There are many choices....,

# Supplementary materials



If needed, each member can be given a card indicating their position in the debate.

**Reality television does more harm than good.  
YOU AGREE**

**Reality television does more harm than good.  
YOU DISAGREE**

**Reality television does more harm than good.  
YOU AGREE**

**Reality television does more harm than good.  
YOU DISAGREE**

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