



Space exploration is a waste of money

When we think of space we often think of retro flashbacks of Star Trek and popular sci-fi shows. Sadly, the dream to travel to the stars and live 'off world' is a rather distant dream for the moment. In real life, agencies like NASA and ESA are at the forefront of such endeavours with annual budgets running in to the billions. Would it be better to spend that money on helping people in developing countries, or just something else?

Points For	Points Against
Space agencies have driven innovation for decades. Velcro, Teflon, and many more materials were developed to better protect equipment and people while in space. These inventions are now found everywhere and considered a modern 'standard'.	We need not have such expensive publicly funded programmes, which are making alternatives to inventions we already have. How revolutionary is Teflon?
Money could be spent here on Earth on problems which can be solved and fixed within decades. World hunger, poverty, and lack of infrastructure can be alternative receivers of this investment.	It is true that money is needed in other areas of society and around the world. This however, doesn't come at the cost of having a future. We have enough money and resources to help everyone.
Many organisations related to space exploration are not directly benefiting the cause. There are contractors who make parts and components, but then they ask other companies to make them for less, they also pass on the work to others. NASA may spend \$1 billion to make a satellite but the actual cost of making it is a lot less. This indicates corruption and bureaucratic bloat.	It is in a nature to explore. Since the beginning of human civilisation we have tried to venture to far and distant places, travelled across oceans and more. We must not be afraid of the challenge.



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.

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YOU AGREE**

**Space exploration is a waste of money.
YOU DISAGREE**

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