



# All drugs should be decriminalised

The common perception is that such substances should be banned in order to protect society from their harmful effects. But do these issues really limit the excessive use of drugs or on the contrary, increase interest in them? From ancient times people all over the globe have considered that the forbidden fruit tastes the sweetest. Nowadays in the countries where it is illegal to sell drugs many people are involved in organized criminal networks which lead to many problems not only in the field of drugs. The consequences of growing the black market have their effects on other more dangerous crimes.

Points For	Points Against
The British Medical Association has conducted a research which shows that nicotine is far more addictive than cannabis.	<p>We want to point out that alcohol and heavy drugs are not similar at all. There are some similarities between them (they are both addictive), but that's it.</p> <p>Firstly, drugs are far stronger in their addictive effects. Normally it takes a lot of time and effort for someone to get addicted to alcohol or cigarettes. It is not a single accident, rather a long chain of decisions made by the individual. On the other hand, heroin, for instance, requires to be used a few times to have an addictive effect.</p>
Many psychological studies indicate that when something is prohibited it becomes very tempting and everybody wants to see what is it like, why is it prohibited.	Even though people are responsible for any crime under the influence of drugs, we believe that we should also do whatever is necessary to prevent these crimes from happening in the first place. We do not see how it would be possible to put a policeman on every corner or trap drug users in places where they do not harm anyone. Since this is practically implausible, drugs should stay illegal.

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<p>One of the most serious problems connected with drugs is one of the diseases – such as HIV and hepatitis – spreading as a result of drug users sharing hypodermic needles as they necessarily get their ‘drug kick’ in secret.</p>	<p>We see no reasons how medical tests of drugs will help us to deal with HIV or hepatitis, which are caused by the usage of the same needle by many drug addicts, not by the quality of drugs. Clearly, nothing prevents drug addicts from using the same needle for getting themselves a "drug kick" of a high-quality drug, so their plan fails to tackle this problem.</p>
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# 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.

**Single-sex schools  
are good for education.  
YOU AGREE**

**Single-sex schools  
are good for education.  
YOU DISAGREE**

**Single-sex schools  
are good for education.  
YOU AGREE**

**Single-sex schools  
are good for education.  
YOU DISAGREE**

**Single-sex schools  
are good for education.  
YOU AGREE**

**Single-sex schools  
are good for education.  
YOU DISAGREE**

**Single-sex schools  
are good for education.  
YOU AGREE**

**Single-sex schools  
are good for education.  
YOU DISAGREE**