

Are beauty pageants sexist?



The media and its portrayal of women has left a lot to be desired, according to some. There has been a lot of debate about how much of a woman's self esteem is based on unrealistic beauty standards. Beauty pageants have been a source of contention, with one side claiming it's empowering for women and the other saying it's merely stoking the flames of sexism. What is known, is that these pageants seem to be becoming even more popular, with England's 2019 Miss England competition receiving more than 20,000 applications to enter. What does this tell us about society today, in the age of social media, particularly Instagram. Have people ignored the historic meaning of these competitions?

Points For	Points Against
Childhood pageants cause a warped view of a child's body from a young age and promotes sexualization of female children.	Children are just having fun playing dressup. They enjoy participating and feeling pretty. If a child grows up feeling insecure, it's not because of a harmless hobby supervised by their parents.
Beauty pageants have outdated standards for winning, and rating women's bodies.	Pageants nowadays utilize more well-rounded judging criteria, based on a woman's interest in current events, their hobbies, as well as their style.
Men and billionaires own beauty pageants. The more people participating and watching, the more money gets funnelled into the hands of evil people.	Many low-income women earn scholarship money through pageants, thus breaking the cycle of poverty and allowing women to go to college that may never have gone.
Black contestants often feel exploited and unfairly judged by white judges that uphold euro-centric beauty standards.	Black women currently hold the four major titles in the American beauty pageant world. If the pageants were so racist, these women wouldn't have a chance.



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**

**Are beauty pageants
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YOU DISAGREE**

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