

Should voting be mandatory?



With an increasingly volatile political climate, the case can be made that voting should be mandatory. There are points to both sides. One side believes that a country is only as strong as its citizens. That means they participate in the government on both a local and federal level. The other side believes that there is freedom in choosing not to vote. This debate will only get more intense as the political climate gets more and more chaotic.

Points For	Points Against
The current government would more accurately reflect the will of the electorate.	Some people are ignorant and have little interest in politics. They shouldn't be forced to the polls.
Candidates can concentrate their campaign on issues, rather than encouraging voters to attend the poll.	Resources must be allocated to determine whether those who failed to vote have valid reasons.
Governments will need to consider the total electorate in policy formulation and management, rather than a loud minority.	Governments already do this, especially recently due to the increase in voter turnout. If you want to be part of the majority, you will need to participate in the election.
Compulsory voting reduces power of lobbying groups. The power would be relocated to the people instead of the dollar.	Compulsory voting expands government strongholds and limits personal freedom. Some political parties would remain in power without others getting 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**

**Should voting be mandatory?
YOU DISAGREE**

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