



Politics has been poisoned by the media

Why does it feel as though the world of politics is becoming ever more divided with all sides being unable to come to an agreement. Taking the long view, it is obvious to say that the problems of today are similar to the past. Growing demand for better, cheaper healthcare, better schools, and more investment in new jobs and training are topics that occur time after time. Unlike the past, many people today are exposed to 24/7 news services and a fluid discussion that takes place online. But has modern media meant people have become unwilling to listen to alternative ideas, and so, have become entrenched in a single line of thinking?

Points For	Points Against
Social media only shows users what they want to see. Politics is about learning what problems everyone is facing and making the best choices.	Politics has always been a difficult place for compromise. Modern media is just showing us more of what was already there. In fact, it has brought more people to the conversation.
News and social media are encouraging audiences to be more divided by not providing a more balanced view of the world around us. There are no 'good' or 'bad' guys, it is more complicated than that.	Modern media companies provide many more hours of discussion, investigation and analysis than ever before. The opportunity to watch and then make up one's own mind is greater than ever.
News is no longer an information service. They make money from advertising. This means the aim is to hold peoples attention long enough to place ads. The product is the audience's attention, not the news itself.	People are better educated than ever before. They are able to make their own minds up using the information available to them.



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**

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YOU DISAGREE**

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