

Recycling Debate: Arguments and Phrases for 7th Grade EFL Students

Topic: The Importance of Recycling

Goal: Develop language skills, critical thinking, and debate abilities.

Arguments in Favor of Recycling:

1. Protects the environment:

- Recycling helps us conserve natural resources like trees and water by reducing the need to create new products from scratch. For example, recycling paper saves trees that would otherwise be cut down for paper production. This helps protect forests, which provide us with clean air and water.
- It also reduces pollution by minimizing the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators. These facilities can release harmful toxins into the air and ground, harming the environment and our health.

2. Saves energy:

- Recycling often requires less energy than creating new products from raw materials. For example, making new aluminum cans from recycled aluminum uses about 95% less energy than producing them from scratch. This reduces our reliance on fossil fuels and helps combat climate change.

3. Creates jobs:

- The recycling industry creates jobs in various sectors, including collection, sorting, processing, and manufacturing. These jobs contribute to the economy and provide opportunities for many people.

Counter Arguments Against Recycling:

1. Cost and resources:

- Recycling programs can be expensive to implement and maintain. They require resources for collection, sorting, processing, and transportation, which can be a burden for municipalities and businesses.
- Additionally, recycled materials may not always be of high enough quality to be reused, leading to wasted resources.

2. Contamination:

- Recycling is only effective if materials are properly sorted and cleaned. Contamination with other materials can make recycling difficult and expensive, rendering some materials unusable.
- This can also lead to contamination of new products made from recycled materials, posing potential health risks.

3. Limited impact:

- While recycling is a positive step, it alone cannot solve all our environmental problems. Reducing consumption and waste production are equally important, and individual actions may seem insignificant in the face of large-scale

environmental issues.

Phrases for EFL Students:

Expressing Opinions:

- "I believe that..."
- "In my opinion..."
- "I think it's important to..."
- "I disagree with the idea that..."

Agreeing and Disagreeing:

- "I completely agree."
- "I partially agree, but..."
- "I'm not sure I agree with that."
- "I completely disagree."

Presenting Arguments:

- "First of all..."
- "Secondly..."
- "In addition..."
- "Furthermore..."
- "Therefore..."
- "In conclusion..."

Additional Tips:

- Encourage students to research the topic and gather factual evidence to support their arguments.
- Provide opportunities for students to practice speaking and debating skills in pairs or small groups before the main debate.
- Create clear guidelines for respectful debate etiquette.
- Consider incorporating visuals or multimedia into the debate, such as images, videos, or infographics, to enhance engagement and understanding.

By presenting balanced arguments and providing helpful phrases, you can create a stimulating and educational debate experience for your 7th grade EFL students. This exercise will help them develop their language skills, critical thinking, and confidence in expressing their opinions, all while learning about the importance of environmental responsibility.