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# UNEX Cultivating Oral Expression



**Title: Think tank**

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**Keywords:** #debate, #speaking, #oral expression

**Duration:** 60 min

Description:

**This activity is a sort of simulation of a debate on several topics. It aims at raising students' awareness of the social and political issues of the context they live in, to make them active in decision-making processes and giving them the opportunity to be active citizens with their ideas & talents.**

Objectives:

*Please list the objectives you want to achieve (short and long term)*

1. To debate among their peers on current topics.
2. To think about and make decisions
3. To understand one's own responsibility for the group and for the community at large
4. Improve oral presentation skills in order to convince others of the correctness of your point of view

Activity(ies) (Stages):

Preparation: Organize the space in such a way as to create a parliament room (a table on the right, one on the left and a central table), divide the class in two groups trying to keep the gender ballance. Give to each participant a sheet of paper and a pen, write on the blackboard the themes on which the activity will be developed. The themes are given in advance to the participants, in order to get acquainted in detail with the topic and the opportunity for debate. Moreover, at the

end of the activity, participants can systematically develop a document gathering all the solutions obtained and submit it to the head facilitator.

Active phase:

1. The class is divided into two. Each sits on one side facing each other. The facilitator introduces herself/himself by saying that s/he is the president of the committee and chooses from each group three pupils who will form a jury that will be assigned the task of judging the decisions made by the different parties that will try to solve problems in the community by proposing solutions.
2. Each group will have time to think about solutions to the proposed issues trying to be convincing and to propose a better idea than the other group. They will write their solutions on different paper sheets.
3. Two representatives from each group, democratically chosen, will present their solutions to all participants. Each pupil has 4 minutes to present his/her idea. At this stage, the jury will take notes and at the end of each explanation will have to ask questions that might highlight difficulties or problems to the proposed solutions and the group can respond.
4. After the proposals of each group, a debate will be held between the parties in order to confront each other and to further convince the judges that their proposal is better than the other.
5. The jury, together with the president, will choose the most convincing proposals for each topic.

## Tips for trainers

*Topics can be different according to the age and current problems in the society – Online learning, Covid vaccination etc. Motivate students to suggest topics themselves - this way they will be involved in advance in their preparation for the debate.*

## List of resources, materials etc.

1. Pens
2. Paper

## Evaluation/Feedback

*At the end of the activity, the following questions will be used to evaluate the activity:*

- *What were the major difficulties in making decisions?*
- *Did you feel responsible for the proposed choices?*
- *Did you find any behavior unjust?*
- *Do you think that the problems affecting your community could be solved in this way?*