

Hat Debates

What is the exercise?	Use prompts to spark quick impromptu debates
Planning and materials	Writing out the hat debate topics; A hat or box
How many students?	2+ but works best with larger groups
How it works	Hat Debates can last as short or as long as you want. Have a hat (or a box will do) of topics on your desk. These could be general like “university should be free” or “men and women should play on the same football teams” (check our topics of the week for ideas) or more specific to your subject. Pick two children, pick a topic and let them have a quick fire, back and forth debate on the topic.
Adaptations and Differentiations	Adaptation: Hand out lots of topics so the class can debate in pairs Adaptation: Have a class vote on the topic
Best used	As a plenary; As a starter In primary schools; In secondary schools With a whole class To introduce a topic
Your notes:	