

Explanation of the Round Tables

25-minute Seminars with an Open Debate

Students are divided into 3 groups: A, B, C for Days 1, 2 and 3 of the series (see sign up sheet). Each group will in turn be either: **Organizers, Speakers or Debaters** (The “debaters” do not give a formal presentation, they only participate spontaneously in the debate.)

Organization (example for the 1st round table)

1. Preparation of the 1st round table

Organizers of **group A** have to respect the deadline, i.e. *2 weeks before Day 1*

Remember P-R-O-P-S* accessories

- ***P**rovide the theme.
- ***R**esearch in view of finding articles/pictures/graphs for the speakers.
- ***O**rganize the debate with nametags, information cards (corrected by the teacher).
- ***P**repare vocabulary lists to understand the articles (to be given to the speakers).
- ***S**ubmit the final written material (articles/vocabulary/invitation) for photocopying

These documents and vocabulary lists have to be shown to teacher at the latest *2 weeks before the round table*. Vocabulary lists must be checked by the teacher and will be distributed to the speakers.

2. Procedure the day of the 1st Round Table

Organizers of **group A** will together “chair the session”, i.e.,

Remember B-R-I-E-F* short

- ***B**e ready to present *briefly* the aspects of the topic to be dealt with.
- ***R**un the round table (cf. “Seminar Language” for useful required language).
- ***I**ntroduce each speaker (cf. “Seminar Language”).
- ***E**ndeavor (*try*) to animate a lively debate around the topic.
- ***F**inally sum up and make some closing remarks.

Speakers of **group B** on **Day 1** will:

Remember P-L-U-S*

- ***H**ave **2 minutes each** to present to the audience the contents of their document(s) (Watch your timing! Be professional!)
- Both the organizers and the other students on **Day 1** will:
- ***P**articipate actively in the debate (names & professions should be assigned by the organizers).
- ***L**earn the “**Vocabulary of Debate and Discussion Language**”.
- ***U**se as often as possible the **above vocabulary** in the debates.
- ***S**peak spontaneously and stimulate debate in the class.

Students should stay in the same groups A, B, C for the three sessions—otherwise it is very difficult to work out a schedule. Students who are “participants” and not “organizers” or “speakers” should try to schedule their tutorials/interviews on that “free” day, if possible.

**These ACRONYMS are intended to help you remember the main points.*

Watch your timing: Only 25 min for this activity and good luck!
A sign up schedule will be given to the class delegate on Day 3.

Only one document is compulsory: **“the program”** to be distributed to the participants.

Welcome to our “Round Table” or “Seminar”
on (you choose the topic) _____
to be held on ____ (write out the date) at ____ (time) in Room H108

Chairman: (fictitious name + real name)
Organizers: (fictitious names + real names)

- 1st Speaker: (fictitious name + real name) will be speaking about... and explaining that...
- 2nd Speaker: (fictitious name + real name) will be discussing..., because he believes that...
- 3rd Speaker: (fictitious name + real name) will be explaining..., since he is opposed to...
- 4th Speaker: (fictitious name + real name) will be dealing with..., as he is in favor of...
- A debate will follow with several distinguished guests: (give both fictitious names and professions - and real names)

In the past we have had some really excellent and memorable seminars on:

“Nuclear Energy”, “Alpine Rescue Missions”, “Genetics”, “GMOs”, “Astronomy”, “Reducing Poverty”, “Climate Change”.

Avoid topics such as:

“Piercing”, “Plastic Surgery”, “Alcohol”, “Nudism”, “Diet Food”, “Drugs”, “Garden Gnomes and their Liberation Front”—already done and not really interesting.

Advice: Be as original and **serious** as possible and find worthwhile, well-documented, easy-to-read articles for your classmates to study and present to the class.