

## Agree to disagree

**Approach:** Team

**Level:** Year 4 and year 8

**Resources:** Two sets of topic cards, one for year 4 and one for year 8, and 2 prompt cards.

### Questions/instructions

In this activity we want you to talk about your opinions, and the reasons for your opinions. The others will listen to what you say, then they will have the opportunity to agree or disagree with your opinions.

Here is what you are to do.

One person at a time picks a card off the top of the pile.

Read the card out loud — think about it — then start off talking by saying

“I agree, because ....” or  
“I don’t agree, because ...”

**Show students the [above] prompt card.**

Try to talk the others into what you are saying, and tell them as much as you can.

When you finish, the others each have a turn at saying

“I agree with you, because ...” or  
“I don’t agree with you, because ...”

**Show students the [above] prompt card.**

When each person talks they will try to talk the others into agreeing with their ideas.

**Continue the activity until each student has spoken to 2 cards.**

### TOPIC CARDS FOR BOTH YEAR 8 AND YEAR 4

Children should only have to go to school if they want to.

There should be no adverts on TV.

Schools should not have any rules.

### TOPIC CARDS FOR YEAR 8 ONLY

Children should be allowed to eat lollies and anything else in class

Girls should go to school in the mornings, and boys in the afternoon.

Fire crackers should be banned

New Zealand is the best country in the world.

All boys should play rugby and all girls should play netball

### TOPIC CARDS FOR YEAR 4 ONLY

Children should be allowed to eat lollies and icecreams in class

Boys are more friendly than girls.

Each family should have no more than one pet.

We should go to bed at 7 o’clock every night.

The best colour is red.

		% responses	
		y4	y8
Relevance of ideas to topic	strong	24	55
	moderate	60	40
	weak	16	5
Quality of argument to support viewpoints	strong	12	31
	moderate	56	55
	weak	32	14
Clarity of ideas	strong	15	38
	moderate	66	53
	weak	19	9
Speech clarity	strong	45	52
	moderate	46	39
	weak	9	9

### Commentary

The same procedures and instructions were given for the year 4 and year 8 versions of these matching tasks, but the discussion topics were different.

With the exception of speech clarity, year 8 students showed noticeably higher levels of skill on the attributes assessed.