Communication of Pros & Cons

AMERICAN DEBATE

With this tool, pro and contra arguments for any topic are developed. It is very useful as an opening exercise to a certain topic. But as it requires hardly any preparation, it can be used spontanously and flexible whenever discussion is needed as an intermediate result, consolidation or conclusion of a learning phase.

- The learners think of arguments pro or contra a given topic

- Formulate arguments

- Argue the group’s opinion (pro/contra) during the discussion

- Listen to the arguments of the other group

- Skills of communication and argumentation as well as co-operation are trained.

- Everybody gets involved into the discussion, no one is left out.-

Description

The participants work in two groups and collect arguments pro and contra a topic. The arguments are presented in a debate, which is structured by certain communication-rules: Group A’s argument has to be repeated by Group B before reacting with an appropriate counterargument. This procedure ensures that the participants listen closely and actively re-think the other groups’ argument.

Variables

Depending on the learners’ communicative skills it might be necessary to suggest formulations for the argument repetition.

Duration 15-20 minutes of group work 10-15 minutes of debate 5-10 minutes of post-processing. total of 30-45 minutes

Material The room has to be suitable for group work in two groups, if possible provide two rooms. Flipcharts and flipchart-markers