

Science Under the Spotlight: Classroom Debate Kit



Teacher guide

Purpose: This kit is designed to help you run structured science debates that develop critical thinking, communication, and citizenship skills. By engaging students in discussion of current and topical issues, they can see the real-world relevance of science. The debate pack also highlights the connections between science and other subjects, helping students to understand the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge and how scientific thinking can inform decisions in ethics, society, and everyday life.

Objectives:

- ④ Develop evidence-based argumentation
- ④ Encourage perspective-taking and empathy
- ④ Connect science to ethical and societal questions

Suggested lesson timing:

- ④ 1 lesson per topic (~30–40 minutes)

Tips:

- ④ Assign roles randomly or let students choose
- ④ Encourage respectful disagreement
- ④ For quieter classes, use small groups first

Curriculum links:

- ④ Science: biology, chemistry, physics, computing
- ④ Citizenship & ethics
- ④ Cross-curricular: English, geography, PSHE