

**Liven up learning with Diana Funtana ESL Productions!**



## **Get in on the Act V: 5-Minute Discussions**

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## Introduction

**Objective:** to learn to express opinions in a short discussion

**Level:** intermediate to advanced

**Duration:** 30-60 minutes

**Materials:** list of phrases and topic cards

This activity gives ESL students an opportunity to carry on a semi-formal discussion and to exchange their opinions about everyday topics and in small groups.

Before starting the activity, teach and practice the phrases and expressions on pages 3-4.

The discussion topics range from easy to more difficult and controversial. You can certainly add your own or edit them as you see fit.

## Directions

1. Divide the class into groups of three and have each group choose the first leader.
2. Place the discussion topics face down on the table.
3. Instruct the students to discuss the topic in the following manner and give them 5 minutes to complete the task:
  - ◆ the leader turns up a card and first states his/her opinion
  - ◆ the leader asks one member of the group for his/her opinion
  - ◆ the leader asks the second member if he/she agrees or disagrees, and why
  - ◆ if there's time, the leader can comment on the other opinions and continue to guide the discussion
4. When the 5 minutes are up, have the students change roles and topics, and proceed with the next discussion.
5. For variety, you can also have students change groups so that they have a chance to speak with different students.

Check out **Perfect Phrases for ESL Conversation Skills** by Diane Engelhardt, McGraw Hill, ISBN 978-0-07-177027-9 for more helpful phrases for conversation and discussion.

## Phrases and expressions

### 1. Stating an opinion

I think / believe / feel that ...

My opinion/ argument/ position/ stand/ viewpoint is ...

As far as I'm concerned ...

The way I look at it / see it ...

If you ask me, ...

Let me say that ...

It seems / appears to me that ...

In my opinion, ...

It's about time somebody ...

They should / shouldn't ...

### 2. Asking for an opinion

What do you think about ...?

What's your opinion / take / viewpoint on ...?

How do you feel about ... ?

What are your thoughts on ...?

Where do you stand on ...?

### 3. Asking for agreement or disagreement

Do you agree / disagree with that?

Are you in agreement or not?

Are you against or for ...?

What do you say to that?

Do you see it my way?

Are you with me on this?

### 4. Agreeing with an opinion.

I agree with you completely / absolutely / fully / entirely.

I couldn't agree with you more.

My thoughts / feelings / opinion exactly.

You're right / absolutely right .

You can say that again!

I hear you!

Right on!

**5. Disagreeing with an opinion**

I disagree completely / totally/ absolutely.

I can't share your opinion / view at all.

I beg to differ.

I don't see it that way at all.

That's easy for you to say.

No way!

**marriage**

**movies**

**holidays**

**work**

**pets**

**love**

**television**

**music**

**parents**

**education**

**nature**

**sports**

**the Internet**

**dating**

**English**

**Canada**

**children**

**money**

**health**

**camping**

**city life**

**happiness**

**junk food**

**alcohol**

**driving**

**family**

**credit cards**

**shopping malls**

**homeless people**

**death**

**anger**

**culture**

**smoking**

**police**

**reading**

**technology**

**capital punishment**

**on-line shopping**

**child abuse**

**binge drinking**

**legal marijuana**

**military service**

**terrorism**

**democracy**

**euthanasia**

**solar energy**

**volunteering**

**the Green Party**

**gay marriage**

**domestic violence**

**women soldiers**

**feminism**

**space travel**

**anorexia/bulimia**

**organic food**

**natural medicine**

**superheroes**

**advertising**

**reality shows**

**cell phones**

**death**

**religion**

**voting**

**welfare**