

# DISCOVER DEBATE

Basic Skills for Supporting  
and Refuting Opinions



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<b>Language Focus</b>	<b>Controlled Practice</b>	<b>Debate Application</b>	<b>Project</b>
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For teachers' inspection ONLY



# To Students:

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Hey, what is this book about?

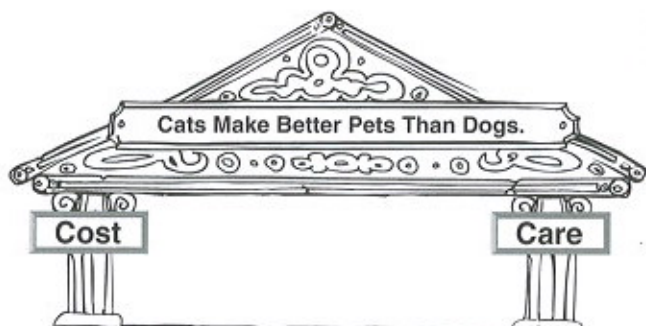
"Discover Debate" makes debate as simple as building a house!



In Unit 1, we prepare the roof of the house.

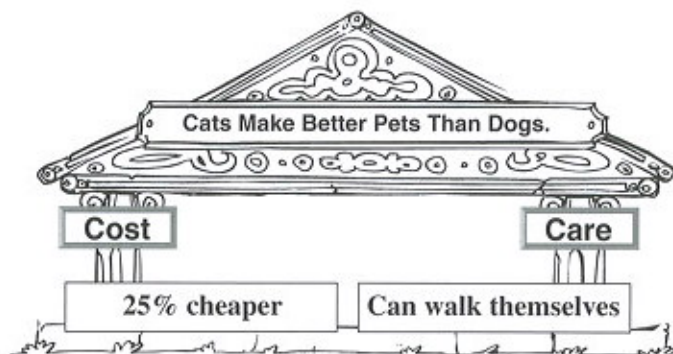


In unit 2, we support the roof with strong pillars and walls.

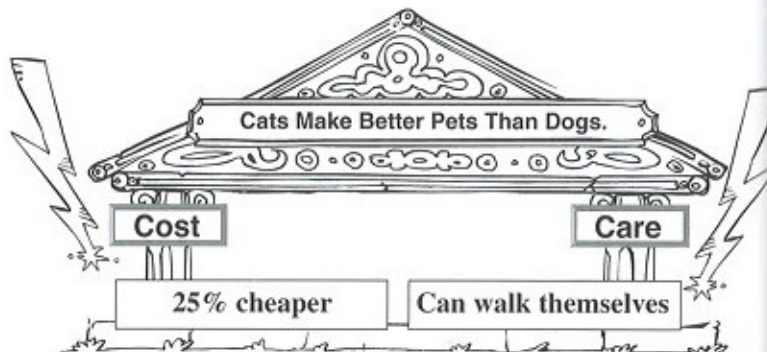


Then, in Unit 3, we build a strong foundation to support the house.

After building your house, we learn how to explain it in Unit 4.



In Units 5, 6, 7, we learn how to attack the other team's house.



Finally, in Units 8 and 9, we are ready to discover and enjoy debate!

# *Have An Opinion*



## *Unit 1*

### ***BUILDING THE ROOF OF YOUR DEBATE CASE***

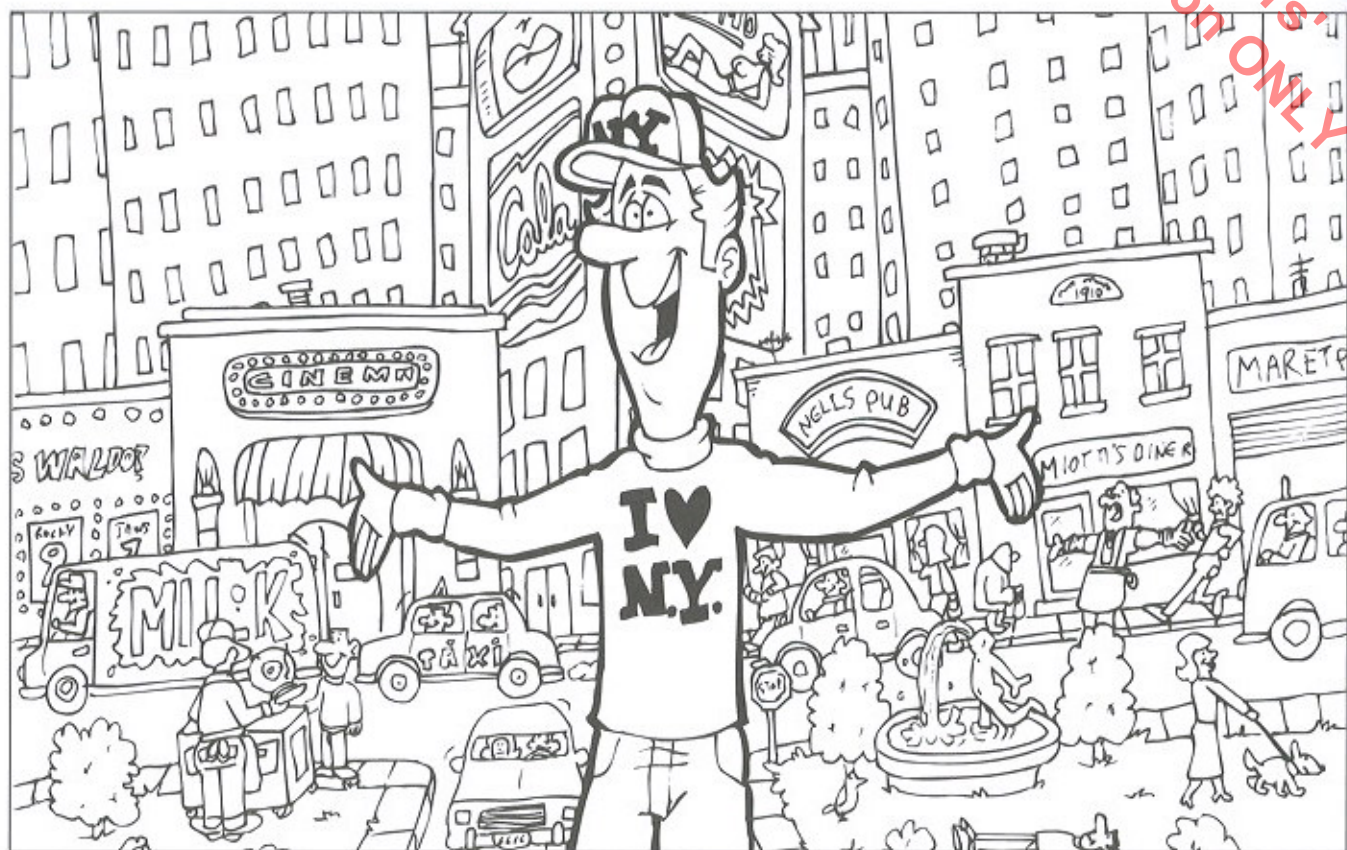
Debate is as simple as building a house! In this unit, construction of the house begins. In fact, the first speeches in a debate are called the constructive speeches. In this book, construction begins with designing and understanding the roof of the house, the opinion.



Have an Opinion

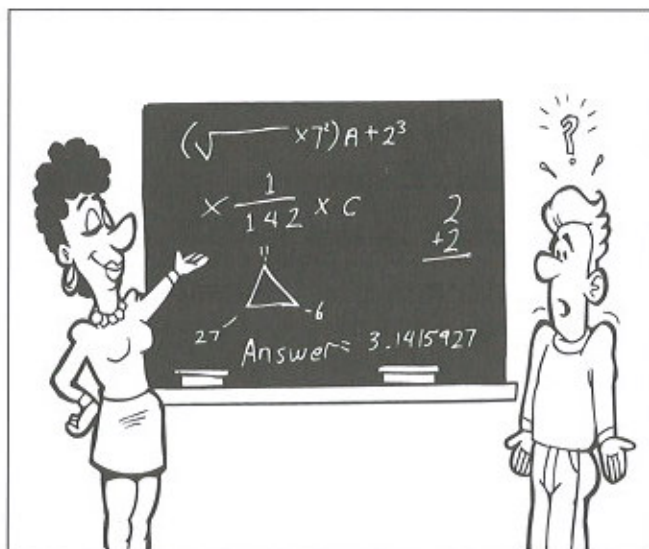
## Discover: Your Opinion

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Everyone has opinions! This New Yorker thinks that the city is better than the country. What do you think? Do you agree with his opinion? Do you disagree? What is your opinion?

Read the following opinions. What do you think? Do you agree or disagree with the statements under the pictures. Check (✓) the box next to either I AGREE or I DISAGREE.



1. Math is the most important subject!

☐ I AGREE.

☐ I DISAGREE.


2. The government should lower taxes!

☐ I AGREE.

☐ I DISAGREE.





3. Cats are better pets than dogs!

☐ I AGREE.

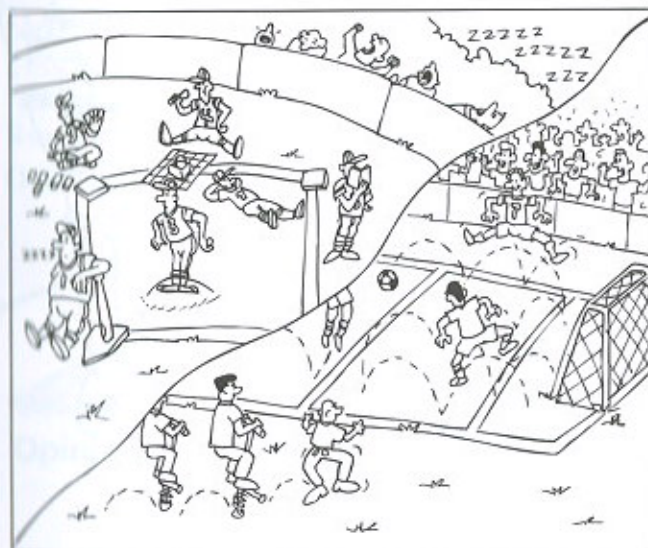
☐ I DISAGREE.



4. Eating fast food is not healthy!

☐ I AGREE.

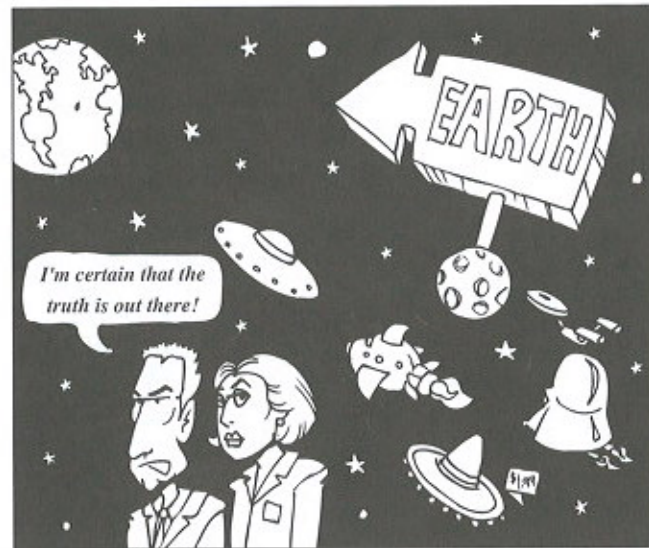
☐ I DISAGREE.



5. Soccer is more exciting than baseball!

☐ I AGREE.

☐ I DISAGREE.



6. U.F.O.'s have already visited Earth!

☐ I AGREE.

☐ I DISAGREE.

### What did you Discover?

Compare your opinions in this exercise with the opinions of your classmates.

Did you and your classmates all agree or disagree with the same opinions?

Did you sometimes have different opinions?

Do you always agree with everyone else's opinion? Do you sometimes disagree?

Debate starts when two people have different opinions about the same idea.



# Model: Opinions of Value, Policy, & Fact

Opinion is the starting point of discussion or debate. Remember that an opinion forms the roof of your debate house which in turn is supported by the pillars and walls of reasons and a foundation of evidence. Just as a roof can have different shapes, opinions can have different types. Opinions usually fall into three main types: *Value*, *Policy*, and *Fact*.

## Value: (X is better than Y)

Opinions of Value state that one thing is better than another.

For example: *I think that dogs are better pets than cats.*

## Policy: (X should do Y)

Opinions of Policy say that the government or some other type of authority such as your company management or school administration should do something.

For example: *I feel that the government should lower taxes.*

## Fact: (X is/was/will be true)

Opinions of Fact state that something is true, was true, or will become true.

For example: *The Earth is getting warmer.*

Read the sentences on the right. Decide whether they are Opinions of Value, Opinions of Policy, or Opinions of Fact and write the appropriate number in the space given. The first one is done for you.

1 a. Cats make better pets than dogs.

b. Math is more important than English.

c. U.F.O.'s have already visited Earth.

d. The government should raise taxes.

e. Soccer is more exciting than baseball.

f. Eating fast food will make you fat.

g. City life is better than country life.

h. Students should not have to wear uniforms.

i. This company should hire more women.

j. The deserts of the world are getting larger.



Opinions of Value



Opinions of Policy



Opinions of Fact