

# Debate training goes digital

## Introduction

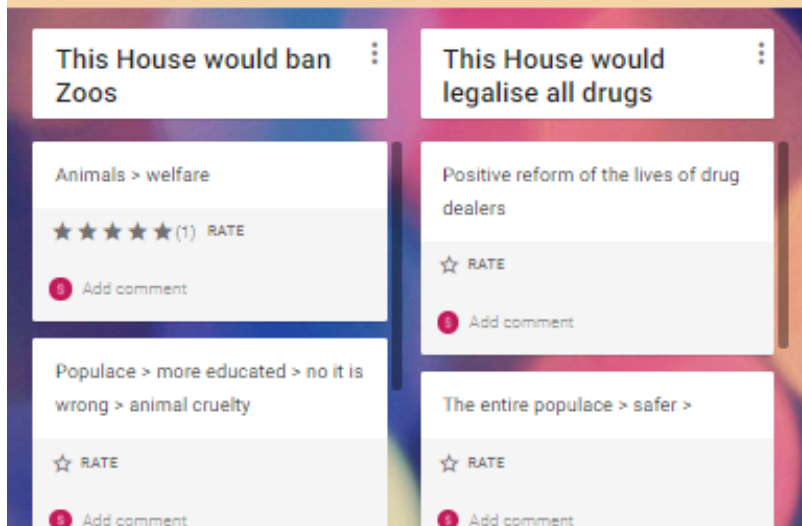
During the pandemic, we moved our debate training programme online. Now young people from all backgrounds across Wales can develop skills and confidence to discuss, debate and act on global issues, while empathising with other perspectives; enabling them to add their voices to achieve Wales' Wellbeing Goals.

Participants receive practical support from a Debate Coordinator over zoom and go through an online self study course. They can then take part in debate activities on their own or by joining our Wales Debating Competition.

This project was funded through WCVA and Welsh Government through the Voluntary Services recovery Fund

## Think about the 'Stake Holders' of the debate

Take a different motion from before and list the Stake Holders, how they are affected, and



PADLET FROM THE COURSE SHOWING LEARNERS INITIAL IDEAS ON SOME EXAMPLE DEBATING TOPICS

## Feedback from young people

- One learner said she learned a great deal about the Black Lives Matter movement through her research into her debate topic.
- Another learner re-evaluated the complexities of trying to tackle global problems: "As we are all global citizens, we are all affected by climate change and hold a right to have our opinions voiced."
- The course helped build confidence: "I am very much of an activist, so this sort of training builds up confidence and makes me gain an opinion. In the end you have got more knowledge and your speech comes more natural".
- Learners reported skills developed: "It helps confidence and speaking skills for anyone...a lot of people are moving into GCSE year and A-level exams, it helps with information gathering and critical thinking... I think it will help with a lot of tasks in final subjects or in writing speeches or in writing anything in English lessons."

## Impact so far

50 people have enrolled on our digital debating programme so far, with 40 learner from 9 schools. 8 of these schools are newly engaged.

Because of the training:

- 63% of learner have improved their public speaking confidence
- 76% have developed their critical thinking skills
- 90% have developed their understanding of global issues from multiple perspectives
- Built confidence in public speaking.

**"This is a way for us to develop skills that personally I have struggled with. Even though we do oral work in school, it's not debating...I think communications is one of the major skills we have all developed, as well as confidence, public speaking and working effectively in a group."**