

Sport: a force for good?

DOES SPORT HAVE A DARK SIDE?

Duration: 40-60 minutes

Aim: To evaluate the positive and negative impacts of sport around the world.

WARM UP

Put 'agree' and 'disagree' signs on either side of your room. Ask four or five 'agree/disagree' statements. The young people then stand next to agree or disagree or somewhere in the middle, depending on their point of view.

- Try the following statements, or make up your own.

"Football is the best sport in the world" / "Keepy uppies should be an Olympic sport" / "Boys are better than girls at sport" / "Winter Olympics is better than Summer Olympics" / "Any athlete caught taking sport enhancing drugs should be banned for life" and so on.

- Introduce the debate question: 'Sport is a force for good in the world.' Do you agree? Vote on the debate question.

Watch the [CAFOD World Cup video: Fair Play or Foul](#) on CAFOD TV and ask the group to listen out for arguments for and against sport being a force for good.

DEBATE

Run the debate. Divide the group into half. One half arguing 'for', the other arguing 'against' the debate question. You could run this debate in pairs or smaller groups too.



DEBRIEF

At the end of the debate, hold a vote on the debate question.

- Did anyone change their mind? Why?
- What was convincing or not?

In school, you could follow this up with a written response to the debate question, which could then be peer-levelled.

Curriculum Links

ENGLISH: Pupils should be taught to speak confidently and effectively, including through participating in formal debates, summarising and/or building on what has been said.

RE: Curriculum Directory 4.4.3 Human solidarity; Icons Bk2, 3c Making the world a better place.

PE: Use this resource to make links between PE and English.

Citizenship: Key processes: 2.2a Express and explain their own opinions to others through discussions, formal debates and voting.

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Arguments FOR

We love sports! All sports. You name it, football, netball, rugby, running, throwing, jumping, sliding - whatever it is, we just absolutely *love it!* So it is our job to make sure we convince the other side that sport is a force for good in this world. Here are some arguments to get you started. But you have to come up with your own convincing reasons why you think sport is a force for good.

Team sports can bring communities together, even if they don't share a common interest.

Sports are a great way to get fit and healthy.

Some sports, especially football, are a route out of poverty for a few.

Sports helps to foster leadership qualities and values of fairness. Team sports are a great for team building, they help to bring so many people together.

Teams sports are a great 'leveller', where rich and poor are equal on the field.

Our talents are a gift from God, and we should use them to our very best - including our sporting abilities.

The sports industry provides jobs and steady employment worldwide, including people in developing countries.

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Arguments AGAINST

It's not that sport is bad, but we are realists and know that sport can, like all things, have a dark side to it. Having our eyes open to this reality helps us to see that sport really isn't a force for good as it can also be a force for harm, and in some cases great harm. It is your role to convince the other team. Here are some arguments to get you started. But you have to come up with your own convincing reasons why sport is *not* a force for good.

The millions of pounds spent on sporting events, especially World Cups and Olympics, divert much needed money away from helping those who are in poverty. The Sochi Winter Olympics cost an eye-watering \$21.89 billion, which was 289% over budget. Imagine if a fraction of that was spent on social housing or social projects.

Team sports, especially football, are a cause for huge rivalry and divisions - sometimes breaking out in fights and even rioting.

The huge pressure to win means some athletes take performance enhancing drugs to get ahead.

Corruption is rife in many highly paid sports. Whether it be cricket, boxing, football, Olympics, rugby, tennis... you name it, all these sports have experienced huge scandals.

Opportunities to become a professional sports player are easier for the rich to access than the poor.

Most sports are dominated by men and exclude women.

The drive for cheap sportswear is met by unfair wages and conditions for workers in developing countries.