

Back to School: Discussion Guide and Language Toolkit

Debate Questions for the Start of School

First Impressions

- How do you feel when summer ends and school begins?
- What comes to mind when you see school supplies in stores?
- What emotions do you experience the night before your first day back?

Mixed Emotions

- Do you feel a mix of happiness and sadness about returning to school?
- What aspects of school excite you, and what makes you anxious or worried?
- Has your view of September changed since you were younger?

Friendships and Social Life

- How does it feel to reunite with friends after summer break?
- Are you nervous or eager to meet new classmates and teachers?
- Do you ever wonder if your friends have changed over the summer?

Academic Life

- How do you feel about starting new subjects or facing upcoming tests?
- Is it hard to adjust back to homework after a long break?
- Are you hoping to improve as a student this year?

Daily Routines

- Is it difficult to wake up early again and follow a schedule?
- Do you miss sleeping in during summer?
- Does having a routine help you, or does it add stress?

Reflecting on Summer

- What do you miss most about summer vacation?
- Are you sad to leave behind the freedom and fun of summer?
- Do you feel the passage of time more strongly as school starts?

Growing and Changing

- Do you feel different each year as you return to school?
- How do you feel about growing older and moving up a grade?
- How do you handle the changes that come with growing up?

Managing Emotions

- What helps calm your worries about school?
- How long does it usually take you to adjust to your school routine?
- What advice would you offer to someone who feels nervous about going back to school?

Language Tools for Expressing Yourself

Basic Expressions

- I feel...
- I am...
- It makes me feel...
- I think it is...
- For me, it is...

Talking About Time

- When summer ends, I...
- At the beginning of school, I...
- After summer vacation, I...
- On the first day, I...
- During September, I...

Sharing Opinions

- I think that...
- I believe...
- In my opinion...
- I feel like...
- To me...

Making Comparisons

- I like... more than...
- It is different from...
- Compared to summer, I...

- Now I feel... but before I felt...
- This year is... than last year.

Expressing Worry or Excitement

- I am worried about...
- I am excited about...
- I am nervous because...
- I am happy that...
- I am afraid of...

Talking About Challenges

- It is hard for me to...
- I find it difficult to...
- The most challenging thing is...
- I struggle with...
- It is not easy to...

Stating Preferences

- I prefer...
- I like... better
- I enjoy...
- I don't like...
- My favorite thing is...

Discussing Changes

- This year I...
- Now I am...
- I have changed because...
- I am different from...
- I used to... but now I...
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Expressing Uncertainty

- I am not sure, but...
- Maybe I...
- Sometimes I feel...
- I think maybe...