

Session 1 activity 1

Work in groups of four to six.

In small groups, one person is to be an observer. In larger groups, two people may be observers.

Discuss the topic you are given. The aim is to reach some kind of conclusion. This might be a judgment about the topic, eg the group might judge that Burger King is better than McDonalds. Or it might be a proposal related to the topic, eg McDonalds should stop selling French fries.

The observer's role is to observe as closely as possible the way the group works so that they (the observer) can give some useful feedback to the class afterwards. The observer may find it helpful to make some notes. The more detailed and specific is the feedback provided the better.

You will be given a fixed amount of time to complete this activity, at the end of which you will be expected to have reached a conclusion (or possibly more than one conclusion).

Topics for discussion

- a) The UK minimum wage
- b) The increased number of migrant workers in the UK
- c) The smoking ban in indoor public places in the UK
- d) Low cost (budget) airlines
- e) Nuclear energy
- f) The use of corn to make biofuels (which has increased greatly in the USA recently)
- g) The value of having a degree in a business career
- h) Knife crime
- i) Climate change
- j) The student fees and loan system in the UK
- k) Supermarkets
- l) Insurance companies
- m) Fair trade foodstuffs
- n) Organic farming
- o) The US presidential election
- p) UK house prices
- q) Binge drinking
- r) Private education
- s) Private firms running prisons
- t) Animal testing by pharmaceutical companies