

If it is safe to do so, we encourage Teacher Champions to enter into the spirit of partnership and organise a Country Debate with other participating schools. Country Debates are an opportunity to learn and share ideas with other in-country schools, while also helping to prepare students for the International Debates.

Please find the most up-to-date version of this Resource Pack [here](#).

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

1. Any child who entered the [TSL 2021 Schools Essay Competition](#) can participate.
2. Children who did not previously enter can also participate, however participating Teacher Champions must ensure that each student writes an essay (see [TSL guidance](#)):
Topic: *'How can we protect biological diversity and stop the sixth mass extinction?'*
Primary students (ages 7-11): 400 words
Secondary students (ages 11-17): 600 words
3. To hold a Country Debate, a minimum of two in-country schools must participate ([See list of participating schools here](#)). *If you are the only participating school from your country but wish to take part in a Country Debate, please contact us and we can match you up with other participating schools in your region.*
4. Country Debates must take place no later than 15 June.
5. TSL will be pleased to broker communications across interested schools if requested. (Please email schools@trustforsustainableliving.org.)

WHAT IS THE DEBATE FORMAT?

Recommended formats for the primary and secondary school Country Debates are provided on the next two pages, together with recommended participant numbers.

If needed, the suggested formats can be modified to include virtual participants using free online meeting services like [Zoom](#).

HOW SHOULD THE COUNTRY DEBATES BE JUDGED?

Participating in-country schools are requested to choose three neutral & mutually acceptable judges. See [judging template](#).

WILL THERE BE ANY CERTIFICATES?

All Country Debate participants are eligible to receive TSL 2021 Country Debate certificates. Participating Teacher Champions are invited to download and print blank certificate templates for Primary Schools or Secondary Schools – to be completed as required.

HOW ARE THE COUNTRY DEBATES & INTERNATIONAL DEBATES RELATED?

Country Debates are a great opportunity for participants to continue their learning journey while also helping to prepare for the online [International Debates](#) and Teacher Champions Exchange in July.

TSL will select two primary and two secondary school children to represent each country in the TSL International Debates, based on their performance in the International Schools Essay Competition. The judging of the Country Debates will take place separately and is not directly linked to the international event.

The International Debates will be live-streamed for participating schools around the world.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS APPRECIATED

TSL welcomes participant feedback and will use it to help plan future events.

After your event takes place, please ask all participants to complete our short (2 min) online feedback form for [Teachers](#) or [Students](#). Thank you!

TSL IN-COUNTRY DEBATE – PRIMARY SCHOOLS FORMAT

Topic – ***‘Global biodiversity is in crisis – What can we do to help prevent the sixth mass extinction?’***

Eligibility – *Any child aged 7-11 who wrote an essay (as verified by their Teacher Champion)*

Recommended minimum number of participants – 8

1. Welcome from organisers & hosts

2. Overview of debate format

The students will collaborate in groups to develop a shared vision for a sustainable future. The emphasis is on collaboration and team work.

After the introductory individual speeches, the students will work together, first within and then across their groups, with the aim of achieving a commonly shared vision. The debate will be supported by a moderator, Teacher Champions and/or other group facilitators.

3. Individual speeches – ***‘How can we protect biological diversity and stop the sixth mass extinction?’*** (2.5 mins/student)

To help break the ice, students will make short, introductory individual speeches based on the Essay topic ‘How can we protect biological diversity and stop the sixth mass extinction?’. This exercise will help prepare the students for the following group work and discussions.

4. Group preparation – ***‘Global biodiversity is in crisis – What can we do to help prevent the sixth mass extinction?’*** (1 hour)

*Students will be assigned to one of four Thematic Groups, representing different sectors in society (‘Governments’, ‘Scientists’, ‘Businesses’ or ‘Citizens’). Each group will prepare a **5-minute presentation** from the perspective of that sector, highlighting **up to 10 key elements** of their vision. The groups will be supported by group facilitators.*

5. Group debate — ***‘Global biodiversity is in crisis – What can we do to help prevent the sixth mass extinction?’*** (1 hour)

Each group will make a 5-minute presentation, highlighting up to 10 key elements of its vision from the perspective of a key sector in society (‘Governments’, ‘Scientists’, ‘Businesses’ or ‘Citizens’). The moderator will then facilitate a discussion across the four groups, with the aim of developing a shared vision across society as a whole.

To help structure the debate, the moderator may wish to challenge the students to try to come up with 10 key points which summarise their common vision.

6. Awards

Certificates can be awarded for:

- *Best Group*
- *Best Individual*
- *Judges’ Commendations (3)*
- *Participation (awarded to all)*

In judging, the main emphasis is on ability to work well as part of a team.

TSL IN-COUNTRY DEBATE – SECONDARY SCHOOLS FORMAT

Topic – ***‘Global biodiversity is in crisis – Is a sixth mass extinction inevitable?’***

Eligibility – *Any child aged 11-17 who wrote an essay (as verified by their Teacher Champion)*

Recommended minimum number of participants – 4

- 1. Welcome from organisers & hosts**
- 2. Overview of debate format**

Students will work together in teams to prepare and deliver their opening arguments, rebuttals, responses and closing arguments.

*After individual speeches, the students will work together in groups (assigned on the day) to prepare their joint arguments, either for or against the motion, **‘Global biodiversity is in crisis – Is a sixth mass extinction inevitable?’***

Each team will deliver its opening arguments, followed by rebuttals from and responses to the other teams. The debate will end with closing arguments from each team.

The debate will be chaired by a moderator and supported by Teacher Champions or other group facilitators.

- 3. Individual speeches – ‘How can we protect biological diversity and stop the sixth mass extinction?’** (2.5 mins/student)

To help break the ice, each student will make a short, introductory speech on the Essay topic.

- 4. Preparation – ‘Global biodiversity is in crisis – Is a sixth mass extinction inevitable?’**
(up to 2 hours)

The students will be assigned into groups – either pro or con – to prepare for the debate.

Each group must prepare a 5-minute opening presentation and decide how best to allocate the varying roles across the team members (e.g. opening arguments, rebuttals, responses, closing arguments, or general support).

Each group will be supported by a facilitator to help guide the process.

- 5. Debate – ‘Global biodiversity is in crisis – Is a sixth mass extinction inevitable?’**
(1-2 hours, depending on the number of participants)

A moderator will chair the debate and help ensure that each student has an opportunity to participate.

Each group will deliver a 5-minute presentation of its opening arguments, followed by rebuttals from and responses to the other groups.

The debate will end with closing arguments from each group.

- 6. Awards**

Certificates can be awarded for:

- *Best Group*
- *Best Individual*
- *Judges’ Commendations (3)*
- *Participation (awarded to all)*

In judging, the main emphasis is on ability to work well as part of a team.