

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 and colleges. Country Debates are an opportunity to learn and share ideas with other in-country schools and colleges, while also helping to prepare students for the International Debates.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

1. Any student who entered the [TSL 2022 Schools Essay Competition](#) can participate.
2. Students 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 addressing inequality help to combat the climate crisis?'*
Primary students (ages 7-11): 400 words
Secondary and College students (ages 11-18): 600 words
3. To hold a Country Debate, a minimum of two in-country schools or colleges must participate ([See list of participating schools here](#)). *If you are the only participating school or college from your country, we can match you up with other participating schools or colleges in your region for a regional debate.*
4. Country Debates must take place no later than 11 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 and college Country Debates are provided on the next two pages, together with recommended minimum 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 or colleges are requested to choose three neutral & mutually acceptable judges. See our suggested [Judging Guidelines and Scoring Template](#) or feel free to create your own.

WILL THERE BE ANY CERTIFICATES?

All Country Debate participants are eligible to receive TSL 2022 Country Debate certificates. Participating Teacher Champions are invited to download and print blank certificate templates for [Primary Schools](#) or [Secondary Schools/Colleges](#) – 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 or college students to represent each country in the TSL International Debates, based on their performance in the International Student 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 participants around the world.

TIPS

- If you have many students, then you can increase the team sizes or number of participating teams in the debates- just remember to increase the time allowed for each stage to accommodate the increased numbers.
- Consider mixing your teams up- you could have teams grouped by school, or you could have teams of students from different schools to create opportunities for students to work with new people and share new ideas.
- Why not invite sustainability leaders from your country to be judges to highlight the work you and your students are doing to learn more about sustainability and climate justice?
- If you are holding the event virtually, you may wish to have the groups meet online before the event to get to know each other and complete some of the planning work and preparation (especially if they need to create a powerpoint presentation).

YOUR FEEDBACK IS APPRECIATED

TSL welcomes participant feedback and will use it to help plan future events. We would also be happy to feature your debates and winners on our TSL Community platform to recognise their achievements.

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 – ***‘How would addressing inequality help to combat the climate crisis?’***

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 climate justice. The emphasis is on collaboration and teamwork. 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 would addressing inequality help to combat the climate crisis?’*** (2.5 mins/student)

To help break the ice, students will make short, introductory individual speeches based on their Essay topic ‘How would addressing inequality help to combat the climate crisis?’. This exercise will help prepare the students for the following group work and discussions.

4. Group preparation – ***‘How would addressing inequality help to combat the climate crisis?’*** (1 hour)

Students will be assigned to one of four thematic groups, highlighting different sectors of society commonly facing inequality: choose from ‘Gender inequality’, ‘Indigenous inequality’, ‘Racial inequality’, ‘Educational inequality’ ‘Financial/Social inequality’, or ‘Youth/Intergenerational inequality’. (If you have more students then you can increase the number of thematic groups and have a bigger debate and discussion, though you will need to adjust timings accordingly to accommodate the additional groups)

*Each group will **prepare 5-minute presentations** (these can be verbal if holding an in person event or via powerpoint if holding the event virtually) from the perspective of their thematic group, highlighting **up to 10 key elements** on why their group deserves equality and how their thematic group can contribute to combatting the climate crisis. The groups will be supported by group facilitators.*

5. Group debate — ‘How would addressing inequality help to combat the climate crisis?’ (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 commonly facing inequality (choose from ‘Gender inequality’, ‘Indigenous inequality’, ‘Racial inequality’, ‘Educational inequality’ ‘Financial/Social inequality’, or ‘Youth/Intergenerational inequality’). The moderator will then facilitate a discussion across the four groups, with the aim of developing a shared vision from all the societal groups on ‘How to achieve climate justice for all’. 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 (Individual and Team)*
- *Participation (awarded to all)*

Refer to judging guidelines for more details.

TSL IN-COUNTRY DEBATE – SECONDARY SCHOOLS & COLLEGES FORMAT

Topic – ***‘Addressing inequality will NOT solve the climate crisis’***

Eligibility – *Any child aged 12-18 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 or in advance) to prepare their joint arguments, either for or against the motion, **‘Addressing inequality will NOT solve the climate crisis’**.*

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 would addressing inequality help to combat the climate crisis?’*** (2.5 mins/student)

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

4. Preparation – ***‘Addressing inequality will NOT solve the climate crisis’*** (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 – ***‘Addressing inequality will NOT solve the climate crisis’*** (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 (Individual and Team)*
 - *Participation (awarded to all)*
- In judging, the main emphasis is on ability to work well as part of a team.*