

DEBATING EXPERIENCE IN SLOVENIA

What new skills about debate have you learned?

I learned more about strategy and how much the tone of your voice can affect a debate. I also learned a lot about what judges look for in a debate.

Bella, Finland

I learned how when debating you need to have a balanced motion, that works for Prop and Opp, to make sure that the debate is actually going to work. Also, when debating it's good to do a lot of hand movements and sort of have personality when talking, because it creates a believable impression to the judges and shows that you are confident.

Seela, Finland

Although I was already familiar with debate I learned in a better way what parts of debate teach us more and I also improved my teamwork skills with new people.

Sebastian, Finland

In Slovenia we have learned many debate techniques that helped us, and I can feel the difference between before and after the mobility because now I have developed some useful debate skills.

Ernesto, Spain

We designed our own debate activities, developing our creativity in order to make debating a tool for learning in class and a way of making the class amusing. At the same time, we improved our critical thinking because we had to find the problems each activity could have. We had several debates about different topics, and I discovered that in spite of the fact that we came from different countries, our points of view were very similar. And while I was doing all these activities, I improved my talking and analysis skills. And above all, I improved my English.

Sofía A., Spain

In Slovenia I practised the improvisation of asking questions or answering them, I practised all the elements that a basic debate has. I learned how to create an interesting activity to make a debate with non-interesting topics and make them funnier and then I had to search for the problems that my argumentation had, so I had to think about the inconveniences it could cause. I also have learned how to analyse a motion, it is very important because I can be more clear in a debate, so I can't make a mistake with a wrong motion. I saw how debate in English can be more exciting than I thought.

Sofía H., Spain

I learned a lot of debate skills in Slovenia like making my arguments better, making debate activities and also to be more outgoing at debate.

Javier, Spain

Practicing the debate in English has helped me improve my pronunciation. I have learned new things and it has helped me to speak in public and more fluently. In addition to interacting with people from other countries, it has helped me to improve my English, give my opinion and contribute ideas, as well as to get to know other points of view and different opinions. I have also learned new knowledge about topics that we have discussed. Of all the debates we did, which were good, the last one was the one in which I was most involved and I had a better time. Although we lost, it was a subject from which many arguments could be drawn and people had different ways of thinking about each point of view.

Miren, Spain

During the debate project “Debating as a New Approach to Learning” activities at Osnovna šola Rada Robiča Limbuš in Maribor, we learned how to create a proper motion and were split up into groups, which consisted of the students from each of the project participant countries. We brainstormed the classroom games that encouraged us to think in a debate style and even got to try one of those games as well.

The next day, we had to debate on the motion "The house regrets the rise of influencers". The groups were made randomly so that there would be at least one or two students from each participant country. That was a useful practice to improve our English-speaking skills and to speak more fluently and emphatic using our body language. We tried to find new ways to explain our ideas to the team.

The debate itself was a great experience that improved our critical thinking, public speaking and communication skills. We learned to look deeper into the problem, do the topic properly and try to find a compromise among many different viewpoints. Also, the given debate topic was very controversial. This way, that made the debate practice even more interesting and meaningful.

Overall, the debate project experience was a valuable learning opportunity that allowed us to improve our English and public speaking skills as well as develop our communication and collaboration with the students and teachers from the project participant countries.

Lithuanian debaters' team: Austeja, Rusne, Mante, Almantas, Nojus, Tomas

The funniest thing by far was when I accidentally denied Klemen's question, we had a debate about dress code and why it should be banned. I was the 5th speaker of my team and had to conclude my team's argument, I was trying to bring both teams to an agreement, that's when Klemen (unfortunately) decided to ask me a question and I jokingly decided to say “no” to see if I could do that and it actually worked. You can bet how surprised I was. But overall, a very funny experience.

Alina, Slovenia

On our third day of the Erasmus project we dived a bit more into debate and what debate actually is and how it starts out. We talked about creating a motion and how to make it fair for both sides. We also learned more about different types of motions, where we can negate, why this would be good, why we don't agree in general and what could happen. On our third day we also debated, where we could definitely admit that we didn't understand the motion so well because we went into the wrong direction. So, it's really important to fully understand the motion you are given and to present it well.

Nina, Slovenia

We have learnt a lot of things, the one I really remember and was really important to me is analysing the motion. I really had problems with analysing it and it helped me with improving in debate, I got better at getting ideas for arguments, predicting opponent's arguments etc.

Klemen, Slovenia

At the tournament in Ljutomer, we learned how debates are judged, which the judges in Ljutomer explained to us along with giving us a few tips, some of which were: try not to jump topics and make your argument as flexible as possible, and they answered any questions we had. We also watched a debate tournament where we got to see what actual debates looked like and what good arguments look like from people more experienced than us.

Tisa, Slovenia