



STORTINGET

#SpeakOutNow

HOW TO TAKE PART IN THE SOCIAL DEBATE



#Speak
Out Now

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How to take part in the social debate: a guide to how to contribute to a good debate, and how you and others can feel more confident about giving your views.

CASE:

Thea(14) thinks it is important to build a new multi-use games area in her neighbourhood. She writes her first letter to the local paper and argues that the local community lacks such a low-threshold leisure facility for young people. Thea argues that politicians should fund the building of the games area on ground next to the school. Her letter is published in the local paper – both the print version and online. It is also published on the local paper's Facebook page. Comments stream in. Lots of them are positive, but others are negative, while some are outright scary.

#SIIFRA-GUIDEN:

Different replies to Thea's letter	Example	How Thea can deal with the replies she get	Example	How you can be an everyday hero for others
1. Factual argumentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A study the municipality has carried out shows that a games area shouldn't be built there. - It's too expensive - The area needs a kindergarten and this is the only available plot of land - There's no short or safe way to get to the nearest games area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Factual counterarguments - Ask for sources - Refer to facts that support your case 	When the critic talks about the financial side, mention children's physical and mental health as equally important arguments. Feel free to ask who has done the study that was referred to. Perhaps the information used is not factually correct.	Take part in the debate. #SpeakOutNow. Say that Thea's answers are good and that she has made some important points – even if you disagree with her.
2. Personal criticism	Little brat! People like you have no idea how money should be spent.	#SpeakOutNow	That wasn't very nice. Don't you have anything better to say? Have you got any arguments?	Say that comments like that don't belong in a good debate. Praise Thea for sticking to the facts even if you disagree with her.
3. Domination techniques - unfair comparisons	Dear little thing, wasn't that a bit much for your young head to cope with? Maybe you should get back to your teenage friends and leave politics to the grown-ups?	#SpeakOutNow. Using domination techniques is playing dirty.	Hi! It's hard to discuss the issues with someone who uses domination techniques.	#SpeakOutNow. That kind of cowardly technique is cheating. Praise Thea for sticking to the facts even if you disagree with her.
4. Hate speech and insults	Little girls like you shouldn't be allowed to write. You're just thick and stupid.	#SpeakOutNow. / It's perfectly OK not to reply at all.	I've got just as much right as you to give my opinion. If you can't discuss the issue objectively, you don't have to write anything at all.	#SpeakOutNow. That kind of language and online behaviour is not acceptable against adults or children. Report the comment. Check with Thea to see whether she was scared, and reassure her that she should continue to speak her mind even if some people are nasty.
5. Threats	A games area right next door to where I live??? I REFUSE to have balls smashing against the wall at all hours of the day. If I so much as SEE you with a ball outside my house, I'll beat you up.	Report to the website that the debate is on. If the threats are serious, consider reporting them to the police. / It's perfectly OK not to reply at all.	I view that as a threat. I've reported your comments and am considering reporting your threats to the police.	#SpeakOutNow. That kind of language and online behaviour is not acceptable against adults or children. Report the comment. Check with Thea to see whether she was scared, and reassure her that she should continue to speak her mind even if some people are nasty.

5 TIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE WONDERING WHETHER TO GET INVOLVED

1. Say what you think. People will listen and there's more chance that what you're concerned about, ends the way you hope it will.
2. Find out more about the matter. Maybe you can get advice from or join an organization or society?
3. Some people will disagree with you. They're allowed to. Can you ask someone you know to help you prepare for the criticism?
4. If people send you comments that you find nasty, uncomfortable or scary, ask an adult for help.
5. Some people use all sorts of different tricks when they discuss. Learn these tricks so that you don't get upset or take them personally.

5 TIPS FOR ADULTS ON HOW TO TREAT CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ENGAGEMENT

1. Remember that a child is a child. It's always your responsibility as an adult to behave properly in the debate.
2. If you comment online or in the papers, ask yourself whether you'd say the same thing if the child was standing right in front of you.
3. Use your freedom of speech to create a good debate for everyone, of all ages. Cheer on young voices regardless!
4. If you spot threats, harassment or other forms of unacceptable comments, be an everyday hero and #SpeakOutNow!
5. Take young people seriously. Adults need to listen to their views. Help children and young people to experience a good debate.

