

Debate Writing Samples

- 1. On the National Debate Forum, the topic given to the students is 'Should college students or even Class XII students be given unlimited freedom?' Write a speech for or against the topic in about 200–250 words.**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen,

Teenage proclaims itself near adulthood. So shouldn't a teenager be allowed to probe the mysteries of the world all on his/her own? The modern environment and educational facilities surely enable that. However, I strongly feel that some kind of guidance is necessary for their young and impressionable minds.

It is true that the modern world offers a variety of opportunities for all age groups in all the fields of knowledge, and everything is accessible at the click of a button. But, with one click on the wrong button, one could get access to harmful knowledge. Therefore, there needs to be some kind of control over the kind of freedom a teenager enjoys.

One could argue that aren't teenagers capable of deciphering the good from the bad as they are on the threshold of adulthood? I agree with this thought but too much curiosity can lead to added confusion, and even chaos. Some kind of parental guidance should be exercised on teenagers regarding the kind of movies to be watched, the books to be read, friends to have, etc.

Some of us may strongly protest as to why can't we be on our own and enjoy life. But the truth is that the world consists of both good and bad things and teenagers are not in a position to differentiate between the grey areas amidst good and bad. So the parents' guidance to a certain extent is essential.

Therefore, I think that while creative urges and the inquisitiveness of teenagers about the goings-on in the world should not be suppressed with too much parental interference, teenagers, on their part should not insist on complete freedom to make their choices in life.

Thank you.

- 1. You are Ashutosh/Anamika Malik. You have to speak in a debate against the motion, 'We do not need Mathematics'. Prepare a speech of about 150–200 words.**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen,

I, Ashutosh/Anamika, strongly oppose the motion that 'We do not need Mathematics'. Does my knowledgeable opponent believe that Mathematics means only working on complex mathematical models? Or that it is an activity indulged in only by those with a lot of time on their hands? Or that it is of no use to those who, apparently, have better things to do?

On the contrary, Mathematics has always been—and will remain—a part of our lives. I should like to draw attention to the fact that almost everything we do—from buying a bar of chocolate to reaching the movie hall on time—involves Mathematics. At a cricket or a football match, what is score-keeping but the arithmetical form of Mathematics? While building a house, right from the planning stage, we need Mathematics in its various forms, such as arithmetic, algebra, geometry and trigonometry. We need Mathematics to keep track of our day-to-day expenses too.

I therefore firmly reject the view that we do not need Mathematics. In my opinion Mathematics is an important field of study in modern life.

Thank you.

