

To the Teacher

This textbook is intended for intermediate-level English learners in high school, college preparation, and adult education ESL programs. The book contains activities in which students discuss the two opposing sides of an issue. We have tried to choose issues that will interest the students and promote discussion in addition to adding an element of fun to the class. In order for students to learn discussion techniques in a relaxed atmosphere, we have avoided controversial or sensitive topics. When using this book, it's important to keep in mind that in debates, we must pick a side and argue for that side and that arguing for one side doesn't necessarily mean one side is good and the other is bad.

Each discussion activity is set up so that all students are engaged in the particular task at hand. All of the debates have **Conversation Tips** and **Language Learning Tips** that are recycled throughout the book. Students are encouraged to use these to facilitate their discussions. In addition to discussion activities, the book contains activities for reading, writing, and vocabulary building.

For each chapter of the book, the format is the same, consisting of the following sections.

Starting Off: Four discussion questions to get the students talking about the topic of the chapter. This section will also allow the teacher to assess the students' prior knowledge on the subject.

Vocabulary: Five new vocabulary words with definitions in English. For each word, there are also two sample sentences showing the word in context. We have chosen the vocabulary items in this book with two different goals in mind. First, we wanted to introduce students to high-frequency vocabulary with which they may not be familiar yet. Second, we wanted to provide students with vocabulary that relates specifically to each chapter topic, so that the students will be able to more fully participate in the discussion activities. An appendix

containing all of the vocabulary items appears at the end of the book.

Reading:

A two-paragraph reading about the topic of the chapter, outlining the two sides of the issue. Again, the five new vocabulary words appear in context.

Comprehension Questions:

Four questions, two for each paragraph of the reading

Discussion Activities:

Three activities, including one main activity involving a discussion of the two sides of the issue. The debate activity in each chapter incorporates two expressions used in certain speech acts, for example, agreeing, disagreeing, asking for more information, giving more information, and disagreeing and adding your own opinion. Each chapter also includes one expression related to language learning. A list of all the expressions is provided at the beginning of the book.

Write about It:

Three questions related to the topic and intended to be used for writing assignments

People Say:

Two idioms or sayings related to the topic

Vocabulary Review:

Fill-in-the-blank questions about the five vocabulary words introduced in the chapter

While creating this book, we have kept in mind that every classroom is unique and that teachers may vary in the approaches they use to meet the needs of their students. We hope that teachers will feel comfortable supplementing the lessons with their own ideas and activities if they so choose. Although some of the chapters build on vocabulary from previous chapters, teachers should not feel pressured to rigidly follow the order of the units. Our ultimate goal is to provide the teacher with flexible material that allows students to freely discuss a wide variety of topics and to enjoy doing so.