Discussing Global and Local Issues

UNIT 9

Warm-Up

Which of the following issues do you think present the biggest global challenges? Which are the most urgent and important to solve?



In my opinion, poverty is the most important issue to solve right now. I think poverty makes some of the other issues worse.

PRONUNCIATION Listen and repeat.



UNIT 9 COMMUNICATION GOALS

Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
Agree and disagree politely	Ask about political views	Debate different sides of an issue	Discuss solutions to global and local problems

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Topic Warm-Up

A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES | Complete the survey.

Check your opinion about each ISSUE.

PROHIBITING SMOKING INDOORS
- It's a good idea.
- It's a bad idea.
- I have no opinion about it.



RAISING THE VOTING AGE
- It's a good idea.
- It's a bad idea.
- I have no opinion about it.

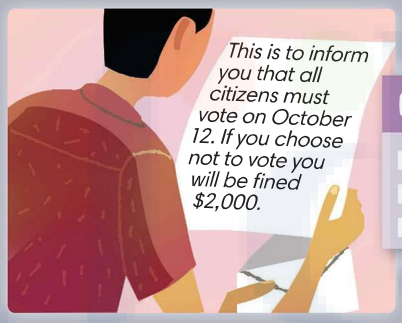


COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE
- It's necessary.
- It's not necessary.
- I have no opinion about it.



CENSORSHIP
- It's always wrong.
- It's sometimes necessary.
- I have no opinion about it.





COMPULSORY VOTING
- It's a good idea.
- It's a bad idea.
- I have no opinion about it.



CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
- It's sometimes necessary.
- It's always wrong.
- I have no opinion about it.

LOWERING THE DRIVING AGE
- It's a good idea.
- It's a bad idea.
- I have no opinion about it.



Molly's Cafe

Sandwich	$6.50
Coffee	$3.25
Subtotal	$9.25
Sales tax 8%	$0.74
TOTAL	$9.99

Dear Customer,
Note that the sales tax will increase from 8% to 9% in April.

RAISING TAXES
- It's never a good idea.
- It's sometimes a bad idea.
- I have no opinion about it.

LAMONT SERVICES, INC. — **EARNINGS STATEMENT**

PERIOD ENDING: April 3

Kate Beaumont

Earnings	Rate	Hours	This period
	$25.00	40.00	$1,000.00
Gross Pay			$1,000.00
Deductions		Federal Income tax	- $265.00
		Local Income tax	- $83.00
NET PAY			$652.00

B VOCABULARY | Controversial issues | Listen and repeat.

C PAIR WORK | Compare your opinions on the survey. Explain your responses.

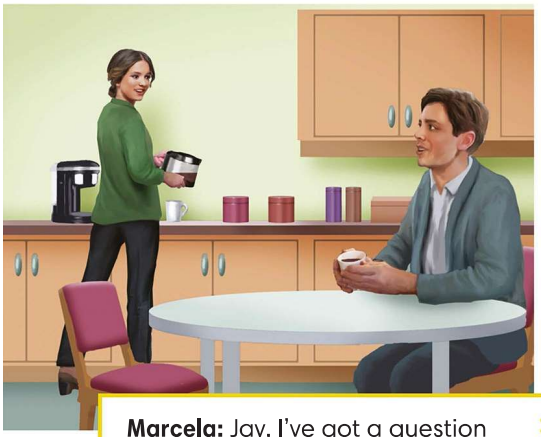
I think censorship is sometimes necessary. Some books and ideas can be dangerous.

Really? I don't think ideas are ever dangerous. Censorship is always wrong.

Language Warm-Up

A ZOOM-IN | Read and listen to the conversation. Notice the featured words and phrases.

UNDERSTAND A VARIETY OF ACCENTS
Marcela = Spanish
Jay = American English (standard)





Marcela: Jay, I've got a question about politics for you. . . . Isn't there an election coming up this month?

Jay: Yes, there is. We've got local elections in two weeks.

Marcela: So how does that work? Does everyone have to vote?

Jay: Not at all. You have to be 18 to vote, but it's up to you whether or not you do. Isn't it the same in Peru?

Marcela: Actually, no. Voting is compulsory there.

Jay: Really? What does that mean exactly?

Marcela: It means the government requires everyone over 21 to vote. If you don't, you have to pay a fine.

Jay: You have to vote no matter what?

Marcela: Well, there are exceptions, of course, like if you're sick or if there's been a death in the family.

Jay: Wow, interesting. I wonder if we should try something like that here.

Marcela: Maybe. But there are both pros and cons to it.

Jay: Like what?

Marcela: Well, on the plus side, many people take their responsibility more seriously. But on the other hand, who wants the government to tell you what to do? I've heard that a lot of people show up to vote, but they don't write anything on their ballots.

Jay: Wow! It never occurred to me anyone would do that! I guess there's more to it than meets the eye.

Marcela: That's true.

B UNDERSTAND FROM CONTEXT | With a partner, complete each statement.

1 When Marcela asks, "How does that work?" she means she ..... .
   a wants more information b wants to know how to vote
2 If "something is up to you," you ..... .
   a are free to make your own choice b must do it
3 If you have to do something "no matter what," it means you ..... .
   a don't have to in certain circumstances b have no choice in the matter
4 When Marcela says there are both "pros and cons" to compulsory voting, she means ..... .
   a it's always a good idea b it causes both positive and negative results
5 You say, "On the plus side," to introduce an argument ..... .
   a for something b against something
6 If something "never occurred to you," it means you never ..... .
   a thought about it b understood it
7 When "there's more to something than meets the eye," it means it may be ..... .
   a more complicated than you had imagined b difficult to meet people

SPEAKING PAIR WORK | Imagine one of you is a visitor to your country. Choose one of the issues on page 98 and ask about how things work.

"I've got a question for you. . . . Isn't voting compulsory here?"

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1 COMMUNICATION GOAL Agree and disagree politely

A VOCABULARY | Discussing controversial issues | Read and listen. Then listen again and repeat.

"**I'm in favor of** compulsory military service. I think it's a good idea."

STATING A POSITION

pro	con
• I'm in favor of ___ .	• I'm not in favor of ___ .
• I'm for ___ .	• I'm against ___ .

AGREEING



- I agree with you on that one.
- I'm with you on that.
- I couldn't agree more.
- Actually, that's exactly what I think.
- I couldn't have said it better myself.

DISAGREEING



- To be honest, I have to disagree.
- No offense, but I just don't agree.
- Actually, I'm afraid I don't agree.
- I'm really not sure I agree.
- I guess we'll have to agree to disagree.

B ACTIVATE VOCABULARY | With a partner, take turns stating a position on an issue in the Topic Warm-Up survey on page 98. The other partner agrees or disagrees politely.

C GRAMMAR | Verbs followed by an object + an infinitive

Remember: Certain verbs can be followed directly by an infinitive.
Everyone **deserves to have** a happy life.

However, these verbs must have an object before the infinitive.

advise	cause	encourage	invite	persuade	remind	tell	warn
allow	convince	force	order	permit	require	urge	

	object	infinitive
She **urged**	**her friends**	**to vote**.
They **didn't allow**	**them**	**to take** photos.
The president **convinced**	**the company**	**not to move** abroad.

The following verbs can be followed by an object + an infinitive OR just an infinitive:
ask, **expect**, **need**, **promise**, and **want**.
They **asked to see** my passport. I **asked them to explain** why.

Be careful!
These verbs can be followed directly by an infinitive. But don't use an object before the infinitive:

agree	deserve	plan
appear	hope	pretend
can't afford	learn	refuse
can't wait	manage	seem
decide	offer	

GRAMMAR EXPANDER p. 139
- Infinitives and gerunds (review)
- Infinitives: passive forms

D GRAMMAR PRACTICE | Circle the correct word or phrase.

1 I don't think we should (allow / refuse) anyone to vote until he or she is 21 years old.
2 Do you think we need to (offer / encourage) young people to serve in the military?
3 The article (caused us / caused) to think about what we could do about poverty.
4 Does anyone believe that the government will (permit / decide) teens to drive?
5 We (urge / urge everyone) to write their local government officials about lowering taxes.

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E **INTEGRATED PRACTICE** | **Listen to each conversation and circle agree or disagree. Then complete each statement, using an object and an infinitive.**

1 They (agree / disagree) about whether the government should allow ..... (eighteen-year-olds / vote) ..... in elections.

2 They (agree / disagree) about whether it's OK for the government to tell ..... (people / not smoke) ..... in restaurants.

3 They (agree / disagree) about whether the law should permit ..... (young people / drive) ..... before they're 21 years old.

4 They (agree / disagree) about whether someone should warn ..... (parents / be) ..... more careful.

5 They (agree / disagree) about whether to urge ..... (people / not pay) ..... their taxes.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVATOR

Now let's agree and disagree politely.



A **CONVERSATION MODEL** | **Read and listen.**

A: Are you for or against lowering the voting age to 16?
B: I'm against it. I don't think it's a good idea.
A: Really? How come?
B: Well, in my opinion, we can't expect teenagers to be able to make important decisions. What do you think?
A: Me? To be honest, I have to disagree. I think most sixteen-year-olds have a good handle on how important voting is. In my view, they're ready to vote.
B: Do you think so? I'm not sure I agree.

Social language
To soften a statement of disagreement, say:
Do you think so?

B **PRONUNCIATION PRACTICE** | **Listen again and repeat. Then practice the Conversation Model with a partner.**

C **CONVERSATION PAIR WORK** | **Change the conversation to discuss other issues. Use the ones on page 98 or your own ideas. Agree and disagree politely. Then change roles.**

A: Are you for or against ..... ?
B: I'm ..... . I ..... it's a(n) ..... idea.
A: Really? How come?
B: Well, in my opinion, ... What do you think?
A: Me? ..... . In my view, ...
B: ....

KEEP TALKING!

- **Ask your partner's opinion of more issues.**
- **Offer other arguments to support your opinion.**

Watch the video for ideas!

Ideas
We should allow ___ .
We can't permit ___ .
They shouldn't expect ___ .
They don't deserve ___ .
I wouldn't encourage ___ .
If they agree ___ .

D **CHANGE PARTNERS** | **Change the conversation again.**

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2 COMMUNICATION GOAL — Ask about political views

A VOCABULARY | Political points of view | Read and listen. Then listen again and repeat.

conservative *adj.* generally against changes to political, social, or religious customs and traditions — **a conservative** *n.*

liberal *adj.* generally in favor of changes to political, social, and religious customs and traditions — **a liberal** *n.*

independent *adj.* not committed to any particular political view — **an independent** *n.*

moderate *adj.* generally in favor of ideas that most people see as neither too liberal nor too conservative — **a moderate** *n.*

radical *adj.* having extreme political, social, or religious ideas and beliefs — **a radical** *n.*

B ACTIVATE VOCABULARY | Listen to each conversation. Complete the statements.

1	The woman thinks the man's views are too	**a** liberal	**b** conservative	**c** radical
2	The woman thinks her views are more ..... than the man's.	**a** liberal	**b** conservative	**c** moderate
3	The man thinks the woman's views are way too	**a** liberal	**b** conservative	**c** moderate
4	The woman thinks the man's views are pretty	**a** liberal	**b** moderate	**c** conservative
5	Compared to the man, the woman is more	**a** radical	**b** conservative	**c** independent

C COACH GRAMMAR | Non-count nouns that represent abstract ideas

Nouns that represent abstract ideas are always non-count nouns.

advice	education	information	peace	success	war
corruption	equality	life	politics	terrorism	work
crime	health	patience	poverty	time	

GRAMMAR EXPANDER p. 140
- Count and non-count nouns (review and expansion)

Remember: A non-count noun is not singular or plural. Don't use a / an or the.

Politics interests me.
Don't say: Politics ~~interest~~ me.
Don't say: ~~The politics~~ interests me.

Poverty is a global problem.
Don't say: ~~Poverties are~~ a global problem.
Don't say: ~~A poverty~~ is a global problem.

D GRAMMAR PRACTICE | Correct one or more errors in each statement.

1 Drugs are causing an increase in ~~the crime~~ crime.
2 More people are living in the poverty now because they can't find works.
3 Educations are important for everyone.
4 I hope the new government can establish the peace.
5 You can find a lot of the informations online about the politics.

E GRAMMAR PRACTICE | Circle the correct form of the nouns and verbs.

Experts from the State University presented their ideas for improving the system of (① education / the education) in a live debate. George Marion, professor of political science, argued that the government needs to address the causes of (② poverty / the poverty). He suggested a radical approach in which the government would greatly increase spending on (③ healths / health) and job creation. In response, professor of sociology Carrie David took a more conservative position. Her (④ advice / advices) (⑤ was / were) to continue with the way things have been done successfully in the past. However, Noor Hamadi, professor of economics, made the case that David's conservative position has not resulted in any progress. She urged government officials to keep sharing (⑥ information / informations) until new solutions could be found. She said, "(⑦ Politics / The politics) (⑧ has / have) no place in this discussion."

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F PRONUNCIATION | Emphatic stress | Use stress in a sentence to emphasize meaning. Read and listen. Then listen again and repeat.

1 **A:** Are you a **LIB**eral?
B: No. I'm more of a con**SERV**ative.

2 **A:** Is your **SON** a liberal?
B: No. **HE'S** a conservative. **I'M** a liberal.

3 **A:** Is **JACK'S** wife a liberal?
B: No. **MATT'S** wife's a liberal.

4 **A:** Are your **PAR**ents conservatives?
B: No. My **GRAND**parents are conservatives.

G PAIR WORK | Take turns practicing the statements in Exercise F.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVATOR

Now let's ask about political views.



A CONVERSATION MODEL | Read and listen.

A: Would you mind if I asked you a political question?
B: Not at all. What would you like to know?
A: Well, would you say you're more liberal or conservative?
B: That depends. I'm pretty independent as a general rule. What about you?
A: I guess I'd call myself a liberal.

If you'd prefer not to discuss politics . . .

A: Would you mind if I asked you a political question?
B: Actually, as a general rule, I prefer not to get into politics. I hope you don't mind.
A: Not at all. That's why I asked.

Social language
To respond willingly to "Would you mind" or "I hope you don't mind," say:
Not at all.

B PRONUNCIATION PRACTICE | Listen again and repeat. Then practice the Conversation Model with a partner.

C CONVERSATION PAIR WORK | Change the conversation, asking a different political question. Start like this:

A: Would you mind if I asked you a political question?
B: ....

KEEP TALKING! ●●●

Ask about specific issues.
Would it be OK if I asked another question?
Are you [in favor of / for / against] ___ ?

Watch the video for ideas!

RECYCLE THIS LANGUAGE
- Would it be [terrible / a problem / offensive / a bad idea] if . . .
- Of course not. / No problem. / Shoot.
- I think [liberals] have [good] ideas.
- best / worst / old / new / most interesting / smartest / etc.

D CHANGE PARTNERS | Change the conversation again.

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3 COMMUNICATION GOAL Debate different sides of an issue

A PAIR WORK | Check the correct term for each definition. Then look at the answers.



Are you politically literate?

COMPLETE THE QUIZ!

1 A group of people and institutions that make decisions and enact laws
☐ a government ☐ a constitution

2 A set of basic laws and principles that govern a country and cannot be easily changed
☐ politics ☐ a constitution

3 A group that represents a particular set of political views
☐ a party ☐ a legislature

4 A part of government that writes and passes laws
☐ a legislature ☐ a representative

5 An opportunity to choose—or vote for—people to serve in government positions
☐ an election ☐ a government

6 A member of a legislature, usually representing a particular party
☐ a government
☐ a representative

7 A country in which a king or queen has a role in the government
☐ a monarchy ☐ a legislature

8 A country in which its citizens vote to elect their government officials
☐ a democracy ☐ a monarchy

9 A country in which a leader or political party has complete power
☐ a dictatorship ☐ a democracy

10 A decision by a small group of government officials or the military to take control of the government without elections
☐ a legislature ☐ a coup



Answer key
1 a government 2 a constitution 3 a party 4 a legislature 5 an election
6 a representative 7 a monarchy 8 a democracy 9 a dictatorship 10 a coup

B VOCABULARY | Political and governmental systems | Read and listen. Then listen again and repeat.

a constitution	a democracy	an election	a legislature	a party
a coup	a dictatorship	a government	a monarchy	a representative

C ACTIVATE VOCABULARY | Complete the statements with the Vocabulary.

1 According to the laws and principles of our country's ..... , the state collects taxes to support our ..... .
2 Because corruption had gotten so out of control, the government was taken over in a non-violent ..... . The military ran the country as a(n) ..... with no voting, led by a high-ranking army general until new elections could be held and a(n) ..... could be restored.
3 A(n) ..... is held every four years to select thirty ..... to serve in the country's ..... and make new laws.

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D UNDERSTAND POINT OF VIEW Listen to the debate. Then listen again and check the two statements that express the point of view of each of the speakers.



Paula Green

- ☐ Democracy makes it more difficult to make important decisions quickly.
- ☐ In a dictatorship, the cost of elections makes economic development more difficult.
- ☐ A dictatorship can be trusted to make decisions for the good of the country's citizens.
- ☐ Elections cause people to work together peacefully to solve the country's problems.

Lance Bateman

- ☐ In a dictatorship, decisions are easily made for the good of the country's citizens.
- ☐ Democracies can be trusted even more than dictatorships to make right decisions for the good of a country.
- ☐ We should be happy to spend money on electing representatives to serve in a legislature.
- ☐ A dictatorship works best when citizens listen to each other's views and work together.



E LISTEN TO SUMMARIZE On a separate sheet of paper, summarize Green and Bateman's arguments for and against the debate topic in three sentences each—a total of six sentences.

F DISCUSSION | Whose point of view do you agree with more? Did either debater make any good points? Explain your reasons.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVATOR

Now let's debate different sides of an issue.

A TALKING POINTS | As a class, vote for two issues to debate. Then, with a partner, write arguments in favor (pro) and against (con).

Issue #1:	
Arguments in favor	Arguments against
Issue #2:	
Arguments in favor	Arguments against

Some issues to debate

- Monarchies have some important advantages.
- Drivers who text while driving should be punished.
- A military coup is sometimes necessary.
- Corruption can only be stopped in a democracy.
- Your own idea: ___

B DEBATE | Choose an issue from Talking Points. One team argues in favor and the other team argues against. Take turns presenting your team's position and supporting arguments. Agree and disagree politely. Then debate the second issue your class chose.

RECYCLE THIS LANGUAGE

Stating a position
I'm [in favor of / not in favor of] ___ .
I'm [for / against] ___ .
I think ___ is a(n) ___ idea.
On the plus side, ___ .
But on the other hand, ___ .

Agreeing
I agree with you on that one.
I'm with you on that.
I couldn't agree more.
That's exactly what I think.
I couldn't have said it better myself.

Disagreeing
I have to disagree.
No offense, but I just don't agree.
I'm afraid I don't agree.
I'm really not sure I agree.
I guess we'll have to agree to disagree.

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4 COMMUNICATION GOAL

Discuss solutions to global and local problems

A READING | Read the on-the-street interviews. Whose views are the closest to your own?

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BIGGEST GLOBAL CHALLENGE THAT THE WORLD IS FACING TODAY?

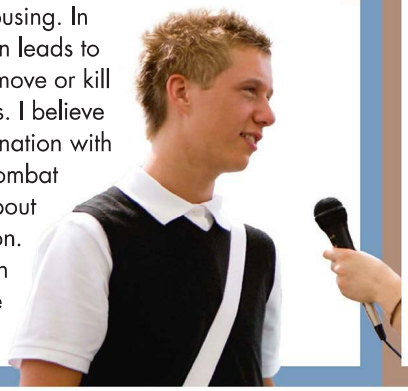
Oh, that's easy: climate change. Scientists all say that it's the number one issue today—and I couldn't agree more. The problem is that, for the last century, human activity has caused the earth to get warmer. They say there's going to be terrible flooding, which will force whole populations of people to have to move. This will have an awful impact, politically and economically. We're already seeing an increase in disasters, from forest fires to hurricanes. If something isn't done, many animals and plants are going to disappear. I know some people think climate change isn't a real threat. But I'm afraid I disagree. In my opinion, this is something that the governments of all the world's countries need to work on together to solve. No one can solve this problem alone.



The biggest challenge? I think it's poverty. I've heard that more than 1.2 billion people in the world live on less than US $1.25 a day. I find that shocking. Children go hungry and are denied a basic education and health care. In many places, corruption at the government level makes the powerful richer while the poor struggle to find food or clean water. Famine, disease, and disasters hurt the poor more than anyone else. Someone once said, "It isn't that the poor don't work hard enough. It's that the rest of us don't care enough." I couldn't have said it better myself. The solution? We've got to pay attention and start spending tax money on programs that change people's lives for the better—on improving nutrition, education, and health care. In this day and age, no one should go hungry.



Me? It's definitely racial and ethnic discrimination. The unfair treatment of anyone whose skin is a different color, or who comes from a different culture, has been a terrible problem in many places around the world for centuries. In many cases, a majority group dominates "the other," treating them unfairly—for example, not allowing them to get a good education or live in good housing. In extreme cases, discrimination leads to genocide—an attempt to remove or kill entire racial or ethnic groups. I believe we need to address discrimination with strong laws against it and combat racism through education about what people have in common. We need to learn to live with each other so we can create a more peaceful world.



I'd say it's drug trafficking. There's been a huge increase in violence lately. Tens of thousands of people have been killed by the criminal gangs that sell drugs. And, if that's not enough, government corruption has increased because there's so much money to be made from the drug trade. For the most part, drugs are produced in developing countries, and they often bring a lot of money to the local economies. The drugs are sold to addicts in developed countries, who keep the trade going strong. I hate to say it, but I think decriminalization of drugs is a novel idea that's worth thinking about. If drugs were legal, they could be sold like any other controlled medical product. You'd get a doctor's prescription, and criminal gangs would no longer be the addicts' source of drugs. And the violence would stop.



B UNDERSTAND FROM CONTEXT | Match each definition with the correct word.

..... 1	an attempt to kill a whole ethnic or racial group	a decriminalization
..... 2	not treating ethnic or racial groups equally	b force
..... 3	changing something that's illegal into something legal	c gang
..... 4	a group of criminals that work together	d trade
..... 5	make people do something they don't want to do	e discrimination
..... 6	have a difficult time doing something	f genocide
..... 7	business	g struggle

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C PARAPHRASE | On a separate sheet of paper, paraphrase the solutions the people suggest for each of these problems. Then compare with a partner.

Climate change	Poverty
Racial and ethnic discrimination	Drug trafficking

D CRITICAL THINKING | Discuss each of the questions.

1 What do you think are the main causes of climate change? Do you think the problem can be solved?
2 What do you think are the main causes of poverty? What are some of the effects that poverty has on a country's economy?
3 Why do you think violence is associated with the drug trade? Do you think decriminalization is a good idea?
4 Why do you think some people hate other groups of people? Do you think people can change their ideas?

COMMUNICATION ACTIVATOR

Now let's discuss solutions to global and local problems.

Global and local problems
- corruption
- drug trafficking
- climate change
- poverty
- terrorism
- war
- racial or ethnic discrimination

A TALKING POINTS | Choose two problems you think are the most important to solve. In the chart, write some possible solutions for each problem and some pros and cons of your approach.

Problems	Solutions	Pros and cons
1 *drug trafficking*	*spend more money on drug treatment programs*	*pro: the result would be fewer people buying drugs* *con: there might be less money available for police actions*

Problems	Solutions	Pros and cons
1		
2		

B DISCUSSION | In a small group, compare your solutions. Which of the problems do you think are the most difficult to solve? Why?

> "I agree that climate change is the number one issue. But I think drug trafficking is the most difficult to solve. Everyone would be better off if . . ."

OPTIONAL Underline new words or phrases in the Reading you can use in your Discussion.
Example: "Oh, that's easy."

SOFT SKILLS BOOSTER p. 161

RECYCLE THIS LANGUAGE
They've wasted a lot of money on ___.
Here's a [novel / innovative / revolutionary] idea.
I wish someone had ___.
We need to get a handle on ___.
It just dawned on me that ___.
We shouldn't put it off.
For the time being, we should ___.
No matter what, they should ___.
What a [catastrophe / disaster]!
That's the kicker.
What's the big deal?
How would that work?
It never occurred to me.

WRITING Choose one of your solutions to a global or local problem. Write at least two paragraphs in which you present the pros and cons of your suggested solution.

WRITING HANDBOOK p. 151
- Contrasting ideas
- Guidance for this writing exercise

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"ON-THE-STREET" INTERVIEWS

Walk around the classroom and find someone who fits each description. When you find someone, use the questions to get more details. Write the answers in the chart. The first person whose questions are all answered wins. Then tell your class what you learned about your classmates.

FIND SOMEONE WHO . . .

. . . knows about someone who has experienced some kind of discrimination. 	**Interview questions** Who was it? What happened?
. . . is worried about climate change. 	**Interview questions** What worries you about it? What do you think people should do about it?
. . . has changed his or her opinion on a controversial issue. 	**Interview questions** What was the issue? How did your opinion change?
. . . doesn't agree with a relative about politics. 	**Interview questions** What do you disagree about? How would you describe that relative's political views?
. . . loves to talk about politics. 	**Interview questions** Who do you discuss politics with? What are your favorite issues?
. . . has a novel idea for how to fight government corruption. 	**Interview questions** What's the idea? Why do you think it could work?
. . . finds it difficult to explain or talk about his or her political views. 	**Interview questions** Why is it difficult? What are the most difficult topics?
. . . considers herself or himself to be a moderate. 	**Interview questions** Why do you call yourself that? What are the pros and cons of being a moderate?

PROGRESS SELF-CHECK

NOW I CAN

For more practice . . . Unit Review / *Connect TV* ★ Test-Taking Skills Booster

- ☐ Agree and disagree politely.
- ☐ Ask about political views.
- ☐ Debate different sides of an issue.
- ☐ Discuss solutions to global and local problems.

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