

CONCERN PRIMARY DEBATES

SPEAK ACT DO: RESEARCH GUIDE FOR STUDENTS



Knowledge is power - it enables us to learn about the world around us. This helps us to understand global issues and their root causes, how they impact people's lives and what can be done to make a change.



A **root cause** is a basic reason for an effect or problem. For example, if you have a problem with your bike, the root cause might be that the tires are too old and need to be replaced. In simpler terms, it's the reason why something happens or why a situation is the way it is.



What is a Source?

A source is where we find information to learn about a topic. Good sources are:

- ✓ Trustworthy - *you can believe them*
- ✓ Up to date - *not too old*
- ✓ Clear - *easy to understand*



Good Places to Look for Information:

Websites from well known organisations like the United Nations or Non-Governmental Organisations, like Concern.



Newspapers can also be trusted sources too, but check the publication. Is it a tabloid? Ask yourself, is this trying to give facts or just opinions?

Good Sources

Books and research articles, which are written by people who study things carefully and share their findings.



Trusted adults like teachers, librarians, or family members can help you double check your sources.



What Are Statistics?

Statistics are numbers that help show how big or small a problem is. Remember, numbers don't always tell us the **full** story but can be helpful in telling **the** story!

Ask yourself:

Who is this number about? When was it measured?



EXAMPLE: "1 in 4 children do not have access to clean water."



ASK: Is that in one country? The whole world? When was it counted?



What About Real-Life Stories?

Ask people around you! Friends, family, and neighbours can share their experiences. These stories help us understand how issues affect real people.



Top Tips for Smart Research

Always ask: Who wrote this? Why did they write it?

If you're not sure, ask a teacher or adult to help.

It's okay to double check! Being curious makes you a great researcher.



Watch out for fake news! If something looks strange or too good to be true, check again using this helpful guide: <https://www.webwise.ie/teachers/what-is-fake-news/>



For good examples of research links and where to start seeking information, check out the Concern Primary Debates Trello Board linked here <https://trello.com/b/ligsgZ1J/concern-primary-debates>



Step by step guide to research!

1.

Decide which topic you want to find out more about!

Check out the Speak Act Do action menu for ideas

2.

Start gathering facts, statistics and stories together.

You should aim to have at least ten pieces of information

3.

Look over your findings.

What are the main things that keep coming up?

Is there anything that really jumps out and shocks you?

Is there anything that you would like to know more about?

4.

Go back and do more research if you need to!

How is this issue impacting on people's lives?

What are people already doing to take action on this?

How is it affecting people in Ireland? And in countries that Concern works in?

What are the root causes of this problem?

5.

Start planning your action!

Use your research to narrow down your focus. Choosing a small part of the problem will help people relate to it more

What do you want people to know?

What do you want people to do?



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