

## EBS

In an argument, disagreement, quarrel, dispute or debate there are two sides. Each side believes that it is right, and that the other side is wrong.

Once upon a time there were people who argued that the earth was flat and others who argued that it was round.

There were people who argued that the earth was the center of the universe and others who argued that the sun was the center.

There are times when the workers in a business want more money and the management argues that wages cannot be increased further.

In such an argument each side is usually so busy saying what it thinks and why it is right that it never really listens to the arguments of the other side.

### EBS stands for EXAMINE BOTH SIDES

This means that each side should examine the other side's arguments so well that it could present these arguments if asked to do so.

#### **Example:**

Should the minimum age that a student can quit school be raised by one year?

**Side A:** More education is needed for jobs nowadays.

It may be necessary to change jobs later on.

More education makes people happier.

It would help unemployment.

**Side B:** Many students are already too bored at school.

Students could be earning good money instead of sitting in class.

School education is not helpful for all jobs.

It may be better to learn the job directly by starting young.

There would be a need for more schools and more teachers.

#### **Example** (continued):

Side A should be able to give the exact arguments of Side B if asked to do an **EBS**.

Similarly Side B should be able to give the exact arguments of Side A if asked to do an **EBS**.

## PRACTICE

1. There is evidence that cigarette smoking is dangerous to health and can cause lung cancer, chronic bronchitis, heart disease, etc. Should smoking be banned by law or should people just be warned about the dangers and allowed to smoke if they want to? Only some people will get the diseases, and the tax from tobacco helps pay for government services. But more than three times as many people die of lung cancer each year as are killed on the roads.

**Side A:** Arguments for the complete banning by law of cigarette smoking – showing why the present system is not good enough.

**Side B:** Arguments against the complete banning by law and arguments to show why the present system is better.

- ★ 2. Some people argue that local industries should be protected from foreign competition. For example the government might limit the number of foreign cars that can be imported or the quantity of foreign shoes. Others argue that there must be free trade and if a business cannot compete it should close down.

**Side A:** Arguments for protection of local industries.

**Side B:** Arguments for free trade and no limits on foreign imports.

## EVIDENCE: TYPE

How do you support your arguments?

How does the other side support its arguments?

Both sides support their arguments with evidence and this evidence can be of various types.

There are two types of evidence: opinion and fact.

**OPINION:** This includes ordinary opinion, feeling, prejudice, belief and guesses.

**FACT:** This includes ordinary fact, personal experience, common experience and actual examples.

Opinions can sometimes be just as valid as facts, and sometimes facts can be out of place. The important thing is to be able to distinguish fact from opinion.

### Example:

Should stores be open on Sundays?

#### Opinion:

- Shopping is enjoyable and people may want to have this pleasure on weekends.
- People won't go to church.
- Most people would prefer shopping at their leisure instead of in a rush during the week.
- Stores would make more money.

#### Fact:

- Many people work and do not have enough time for shopping during the week.
- Store assistants would not be able to spend all weekend with their families.
- There are those who are against Sunday shopping on religious grounds.
- Many stores already stay open late in the evening.
- People now manage to do all their shopping without stores being open on Sunday.

## PRACTICE

1. It is proposed to build a new highway which will destroy some towns and farmland. The following arguments are put forward in favor of the highway and against it. Can you separate the arguments into opinion and fact?
  - a I do not think we should allow highways to be built all over the country, destroying beautiful countryside.
  - b The cost of the highway will be greater than 4 million dollars a mile.
  - c The highway will bring new industries and so provide more jobs for the people in the area.
  - d If the highway is not built the roads will be so congested in three years that driving will be very difficult.
  - e I think this trend toward greater speed is always harmful.
  - f Everyone knows that highways help the people at either end of them but not those along the way.
  - g I asked ten people what they thought of the highway and not one of them was in favor of it.
  - h Forty-two houses and eight hundred acres of farmland will be destroyed.
  - i I think these beautiful towns are unique and should be preserved.
  - j Planners are paid for planning, so they are always trying to build unnecessary roads.
- ★ 2. In many countries young men have to do compulsory military service after leaving school. Do you think this is a good idea?

**Side A:** Arguments in favor of this military service, from the point of view of both the people involved and the country.

**Side B:** Arguments against all young men having to do military service.