

## Panel Discussion

### 1. Warm-up

Do you enjoy taking part in discussions? Why?

*generate – initiate – provoke – stimulate a discussion  
a heated – animated – intense – lively discussion*

### 2. Brainstorming – associations

Does the word discussion have any associations for you?

*It calls up, evokes, sparks off, triggers all kinds of associations for me.*

### 3. Communication

Pair work.

**Student A:** You think that your partner should work in the Student Parliament. Invite them to stand for the post explaining to them just how exciting they would find the role and how suited they are to it.

**Student B:** You think your friend wants you to do something that you may find attractive, but at the moment you don't have time to do. Say no elegantly.

### 4. Panel discussion – principles

Can you define a panel discussion?

What's the difference between an ordinary discussion and a panel discussion?

### 7. Stages of a panel discussion. How is the panel discussion organized? Focus on the beginning part of the discussion (see below) transcript:

<http://www.hoover.org/multimedia/uk/2996211.html>

**Welcome to Uncommon Knowledge. I'm Peter Robinson. Our show today:** a disagreement--a sharp disagreement--over the state of the planet. **On one side**, environmentalists, and a tale of woe: global warming, overpopulation, deforestation, the mass extinction of species. According to the environmentalists, the planet has been in dire straits for decades and things are going to get worse. **On the other side**, one young man, a Danish statistician who has come forward to say, not so fast. After looking at the figures, he has concluded that the state of the planet has actually been getting better, and is likely to go on doing just that. His claims have generated a firestorm of criticism.

**Joining us two guests**, an environmental scientist, Dan Kammen, who is a professor of energy and society at the University of California at Berkeley and that young Danish statistician, Bjorn Lomborg, whose book, *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, started all the trouble.

**Peter Robinson:** The late economist Julian Simon, "The material conditions of life will continue to get better for most people, in most countries, most of the time, indefinitely." True or false? Bjorn?

**Bjorn Lomborg:** I think it's true.

**Peter Robinson:** Dan?

**Daniel Kammen:** I think it's true if you direct your research appropriately, which we're not doing currently.

**8. The stages of a panel discussion are jumbled. Put the items in correct order**

Moderator welcomes the panelists.

Debate in progress

Moderator introduces the panel of experts in a few words.

Moderator opens the discussion.

Moderator thanks the speakers.

Moderator closes the discussion.

Moderator introduces the topic.

Moderator summarizes what has been said.

**9. Panel discussion: role-play**

In groups of 5 to 7 students agree on one controversial topic, choose roles including a moderator and prepare for an in-depth discussion (duration about 30 minutes).