

## TOPIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP - HANDOUT

### TOPIC ISSUES/ ANGLES

Angles are the issues relating to the topic. They include:

- different perspectives
- points of view
- positions
- sides

### SELECTING ANGLES

When selecting what angles or issues to include, you need to consider:

- What is important?
- What is most relevant?
- What is current or new?
- What will make an impact?
- What is important to the audience

### RESEARCH

When carrying out your research you need to decide what information will be needed to make a strong, clear case? What facts and examples will be needed and where can you find them?

You will need **FACTS** that come from credible sources. Facts are your ammunition.. they will help you win a debate, ask a good question or frame a good argument.

### Type of information you might want to include:

- Statistics
- Reports
- Quotes
- News articles/ reports
- Opinion polls
- Speak to experts

### Types of sources:

When carrying out research you need to ensure it is:

- Accurate and centred on facts
- Contains information relevant to the topic/ issues/ angles
- Has a range or variety of sources

- Has reliable sources - they are credible!
- In debate preparation, you also need to understand the opposing arguments/position, so you can counter them.
- If you are preparing questions for a debate, then the same applies.. you need to understand different viewpoints in order to challenge and respond to them.

## **What to avoid in your research:**

- Unsubstantiated information - check your facts!
- Sources that can be easily attacked as not being independent or credible (they are accused of being biased).

## **RESEARCH HINTS**

- Keep a record of your sources; ie: dates, source name, links etc so you can check them again if needed.
- Double check facts from a secondary source.
- Ask yourself if the information is recent or new, what impact it will have and what is needed to counter the opposing viewpoints?

## **STRUCTURE**

When structuring your arguments or question, you need to:

- Select the angles
- Select the most relevant and credible facts and examples
- Decide what information is most important and what order it should be in. What is the most important, relevant or powerful information that should lead your arguments/case? What will have the most impact?
- You need to structure your information in a powerful way. Be clear and concise - no-one should be confused by what you are saying. Decide what will make people sit up and listen and what will convince them. Then you can decide how best to present the information?