# Agree or Not?

# An Oral Practice Book for the Students of English

Second edition

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#### Introduction:

# 1. Basic objectives

Developing both fluency and accuracy in oral proficiency in larger units of language such as discussions and debates can be possible by exposing the students to rather authentic conditions. Language learners need to acquire the ability to argue and persuade their interlocutors, classmates or even their audience in lectures. As likely as not, they find themselves in debates and discussions. Their limited abilities gained through attending conversation classes help them produce short grammatical sentences. These short sentences need to be organized within larger units.

This book intends to provide upper-intermediate and also advanced students who are studying English as their second or foreign language with approximately argumentative and deliberately provocative essays. It attempts to motivate them by any means, even by putting their nerves on edge, intending to spark off debates in conversation classes, which can eventually lead to their gaining an acceptable and promising proficiency in spoken English. Once the learners have done all with the step by step acquisition of linguistic elements, now it is time for them to put that knowledge into practice.

The essays are replete with a range of idioms, phrasal verbs, and proverbs. This deliberate and conscious decision seeks to give them a contextual value. The topics for discussions have been meticulously chosen to satisfy learners with a variety of interests and tastes. The abridged ideas in the counter-argument part try to pave the way for the students to practice their ability in idea development. It should be noted that students are not expected to come up with a fixed conclusion since the arguments are open-ended.

## 2. Book layout

This book consists of thirty two debatable and provocative essays supporting a specific proposition. Each essay is followed by twenty key sentences written to oppose the author's opinion. Students are required to develop these short ideas to strongly stand against what is being backed up. A list of one hundred and three additional

topics allows teachers to provide their students with opinion gap activities which eventually contribute to their additional oral proficiency. It also makes a topic bank available for the teachers in conversation classes. A glossary of idioms and phrasal verbs puts the finishing touch to the book. This part intends to help the learners not to waste their time thumbing the dictionary pages for the new idioms or phrasal verbs.

### 3. How to use this book

It is basically up to the teacher to utilize any technique which better suits his or her purpose. But a fixed routine might best serve the book's aims. The following are only some of the suggested techniques:

- a. Teachers are required to invite their students to have a prereading activity before they attend the class. As they come to class, they will be equipped with a needed background knowledge helping them to take in the whole message and also actively take part in group discussions.
- b. To check the students' pre-reading, teachers can ask some general questions based on the essays.
- c. For the next step teachers can read the texts aloud so that they may provide the students with the clarification of the linguistic complexity wherever needed. Input must be comprehensible for the learners.
- d. Students should be asked to take either 'for' side or 'against' one, to support or to oppose the author's opinion. This can better be responsive if half of the class stands' for' and the other half 'against'.
- e. Teachers can take a leading role to set the scene for the class discussion by giving the class a brief introduction on the issue and also a monitoring role to come to the scene if the debate happens to come to a halt and also to prevent the discussion from digression. Teachers can also provide the students with some fruitful insights to help the learners to move smoothly during discussion. Before the sands run out, teachers can wrap