

Objectives:

This course aims at developing the participants' debating and presentation skills in English and at examining controversial issues related to the media. In order to prepare for the debates, we will look into the background of the topics through readings as well as through the participants' presentations. This will help gather and analyse information and gain a better understanding of the issues. We will integrate content and form by also focusing on language development. Sessions of presentations and debates will alternate.

Requirements:

- regular attendance and participation
- thorough preparation for classes, all assignments have to be completed
- completion of an expository essay of 800-900 words and a regular journal of the readings
- giving at least one major oral presentation and several oral reports on readings
- taking part in as many debates as the size of the group allows

Rules:

- Assignments have to be completed/submitted on time. Absence from class is no excuse for not writing an assignment or not preparing for the following class.
- If you know you'll be absent from class when your presentation is due or when you are scheduled for a debate, send a message to hollo.dorottya@btk.elte.hu as soon as you know, so that the necessary arrangements can be made. Also, if possible please try and swap tasks with a group mate. If you have to cancel on the day of the presentation, ring 460 4407 (The joint DELP & DELG department office).
- Late work will automatically be given a grade a full mark lower.
- If you miss more than three classes you will be dropped from the class list and will not be given a mark for the term's work.

Assignments:

- **Presentation:** The presentation (10-15 minutes) should be the summary of a controversial issue related to the media. It should outline the background of the issue and arguments for its various facets. The presentation should not be a theoretical discussion of the issue, but concrete cases must be used to illustrate it. Apart from covering the content, the presenter is requested to draw attention to important language connected to the topic. The presentation must be accompanied by a handout covering both the topic and the relevant language, e.g. vocabulary. Please indicate useful sources on the handout, too. Please bring a handout for everyone in the group.
- **Essay:** An 800-900-word-long expository paper discussing a controversial issue that has been treated in class. **Deadline: 3 May.** (no extension is given) The purpose of the expository paper is to present a controversial issue from as many angles as possible/relevant objectively, without taking sides or wanting to influence the readers. However, it must provide the readers with enough information in order for them to take a stand. The topic may not be the same as that of the presentation. The title or topic and outline along with some sources have to be submitted by **16 April**.
- **Reading journal:** Those who do not present a topic also have to read articles related to it, and have to submit a reading journal. This is a very short **summary** of the readings for every topic discussed in class accompanied by personal **reflections** on the texts and the topics as well as a **list of important/interesting language items** learnt from the texts. The journal should also indicate the exact references of the texts in APA. (250 words/topic) **Deadline:** the first class dealing with each topic, i.e., the class when we have the presentations. The presenters of a topic do not have to submit a journal, since they must make a handout.

Format for the assignments:

- Put your name, the course title and the title of the assignment at the top of the first page.
- Use single spacing.
- Pages must be numbered and paragraphs indented.
- The written assignments must follow the APA style. For details, see: <http://delp.elte.hu>
- Please submit the assignments electronically (saved as: MjournalSURNAME.rtf and MessaySURNAME.rtf) to: hollo.dorottya@btk.elte.hu .

Materials for the course are available at: <http://hollod.web.elte.hu/mediadebates.htm>

Assessment:

Assessment will be based on the quality of the assignments (content and language) and participation

Intended schedule:

Week 1	Feb 12	Introduction; HW: Reading: debate info, Watch a debate: identify arguments and support, put them into the grid provided for this purpose. https://drive.google.com/open?id=113hp_jFjN3h7yuPNyIMmSy2iJib1ScS7 Write motions for possible debates
Week 2	19	Discussion of the HW, performing a mock debate
Week 3	26	Topic: 4 presenters: Motion for next time:
Week 4	Mar 7	Debate & discussion 6 debaters:
Week 5	12	Topic: 4 presenters: Motion for next time:
Week 6	19	Debate & discussion 6 debaters:
Week 7	26	Topic: 4 Presenters: Motion for next time:
Week 8	Apr 2	Debate & discussion 6 debaters:
Week 9	9	Topic: 4 presenters: Motion for next time:
Week 10	16	Debate & discussion 6 debaters: Deadline for submitting the topic/title, outline and some sources of the major assignment
Spring Break		
Week 11	30	Deadline for the major assignment Topic: 4 presenters:
Week 12	May 7	Debate & discussion Debaters:
Week 13	14	Debate & discussion Debaters:

Suggestions for topics:

The reliability of information: Quality and tabloid press & blogs

The right to privacy vs. the right to information

The accessibility of online media: free or by subscription

Censorship of the media (Should the freedom of speech be ever restricted? Can hate speech be controlled? Should Internet access be restricted?, etc.)

Paying informants

The role of the media in global issues (e.g., education, health, migration, environment, energy, etc.)

Balance in the media: state control, private business, political bias
The representation (or: the restriction of the representation of) violence in the media
The representation of minorities in the media
Values promoted by the media
The positive and negative effects of the media on societies
Advertising and the media

Please feel free to suggest other topics.

Media:

[HTTP://SOCIALMEDIA.BLOGACTIV.EU/2011/03/18/DEBATE-PART-ONE/](http://socialmedia.blogactiv.eu/2011/03/18/DEBATE-PART-ONE/)

<http://socialmedia.blogactiv.eu/2011/03/18/debate-part-two/>

<http://socialmedia.blogactiv.eu/2011/03/18/eu-citizens-media-debate-part-three-supporting-the-press-without-controlling-it/>

Further ideas for resources are welcome!

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Please remember the anti-discrimination policy of the Department of English Language Pedagogy:

DELP staff are fully committed both to promoting the freedom of expression and to respecting the rights and dignity of all people, whatever their ethnic or cultural background, religion, beliefs and sexual orientation. We expect the same commitment from our students in their everyday and professional discourse and behaviour.