



## Politics & Debate Reading List

We're looking forward to welcoming you to the Politics & Debate course, and we hope you're looking forward to joining us too!

If you'd like to start exploring the subject ahead of the start of your course, here's a list of resources that will help you engage with some of the ideas you'll be exploring in more depth across the one or two weeks. These are by no means in order of importance and you don't have to look at all of them – let your instinct choose what sounds more interesting to you.

**Whether you're doing the one or two week course, the reading list below is applicable!**

Politics underpins just about everything in every country around the world. What you learn in school, the price of products in the supermarket and how easy it is for you to access healthcare are all very everyday things that are linked inextricably to the politics in your country. With a subject that's so broad, it can be difficult to know where to start. Our two week programme will cover lots of ground, so I've recommended three resources here to give you a solid grounding of some of the things we'll cover in our classes.

- **Book: Animal Farm by George Orwell.** Don't be put off by the fact this is a whole book! It's only about 100 pages and it's very easy to read, so if you like the sound of it there's no reason not to dive in. On the surface, this is an entertaining tale about a farmyard, but look beneath the surface and you'll find a political parable for the ages.
- **Article: Youth Climate Activists Say Community Helps With Mental Health Strain, Teen Vogue** – Teen Vogue may not be the first place you'd think to look for politically engaged and engaging material, but their political pages are gaining popularity and cover a range of important issues. This article speaks to a range of teenagers who are involved in social movements and how they protect their mental health while fighting for the cause they believe in.

Link: Read [here](#)

- **Podcast: Anne Applebaum on why democracy is not inevitable, Democracy Works** – In our first class together, we'll be looking at democracy and elections. If you'd like to challenge yourself ahead of the course, have a listen to this podcast. Anne Applebaum, a respected author and political theorist, discusses why

democracy might be at risk, and how we could help to save it. As you're listening, think about whether you think democracy is the best option. Why, or why not?

Link: Listen [here](#)

Debating is a skill that can be applied in a range of contexts, from winning a national debating championship to convincing your parents to let you watch that movie you've wanted to see for weeks. It also links closely with politics, and we'll be exploring that link quite closely in our classes together. These three resources will give you an understanding of some of the tactics we can use to increase our success in debates, as well as a video explaining the importance of debate more widely. Enjoy, we look forward to hearing what you think in our classes!

- **Video: How to Win a Debate, According to a 16-Year-Old Expert, Inside Edition**  
– When it comes to debate success, you can't get much better than Rosdely Ciprian, whose prowess in the field even landed her a role debating live on stage in a show on Broadway. So, if you'd like to pick some tips up from the master, check out this video!

Link: Watch [here](#)

- **Article: What Is British Parliamentary Style Debate by the Oxford Scholastica Academy** – If you've never taken part in a formal debate before, you might not be aware that there are countless different formats, and you need to stick to a fairly strict set of rules for each one you use. This article will walk you through British Parliamentary Style Debate (BPS), but it also lists a wealth of other styles with brief summaries at the end. If any appeal, it'll just take a quick Google search to find out more about them.

Link: Read [here](#)

- **Video: It Is Immoral To Be A Billionaire, Oxford Union** – The Oxford Union is a historic and well-respected society within the University of Oxford, and one which all students of Oxford Scholastica's in-person programmes are able to debate in as part of their time in the historic city. If you're looking to perfect your use of the British Parliamentary Debate style, look no further than the debates on their YouTube channel – we've recommended one about billionaires here, but you should look through the playlists and find one that appeals most to you.

Link: Watch [here](#)

### **Next Steps:**

We're really looking forward to welcoming you to the course! If you'd like to take your learning to the next level, you're welcome to join one of our other Politics programmes

too – many of our students sign up to multiple programmes as they prepare for their futures. Once you turn 15, your options will include:

- At Oxford Scholastica, we run a residential Oxford Summer School every summer – you might be interested in the [Experience International Relations, Politics & Leadership Academy](#). This is an immersive, two-week residential experience which takes place on the Oxford University campus – you'll take your understanding of global politics to the next level and meet like-minded students from around the world.
- You might also be interested in the [Experience Debate & Public Speaking Academy](#). This will be the perfect fit for you if you'd like to really focus on your presentation and public speaking skills, which will stand you in fantastic stead for whichever subject or career you decide to pursue.

### **Other Resources:**

Clarity about your future career direction will help you in your academic studies and in your university applications. We've created a quick Careers Test to help you to know what careers might suit you best. You'll then receive a personalised Careers Report, with recommended careers and resources to explore.

It's mostly aimed at 15-18 year olds, but you're still more than welcome to try it out for yourself. We hope you'll find it useful!

Try the Test [here](#)