

Top Tips for winning an argument



Some things to keep in mind when trying to change people's minds through conversation.

- ★ **Stay calm** 😊 - it's easy to get overly passionate (!) when talking about things important to you, but you won't convince anyone by shouting and will most likely put them off.
- ★ **Learn your facts and use them** – even if you're not sure how to respond to a question you can state the facts you know and at least provide some basic information.
- ★ **Don't always answer the question as it's given to you!** The question may take the discussion in a completely negative direction that you want to avoid (e.g. 'Why are refugees all criminals?'....)
- ★ **Find a way to make your key points** – don't wait for people to ask the right question to make your main argument as they probably won't!
- ★ **Use your own terminology, not theirs** – much of the usual discussions about asylum are talked about in negative terms (e.g. being a 'burden'), so avoid these and talk about asylum in a positive way.
- ★ **Don't try and answer what you don't know!** There's no shame in saying you're not sure about a particular fact and it's better than pretending to know and tangling yourself up in incomprehensible babble...
- ★ **Try to understand what perspective they have, as different arguments appeal to different people** – keep in mind that not everyone has the same point of view as you, so what you find convincing won't always be convincing to others.
- ★ **Talk about the individual people involved rather than abstract terms** – try to make discussions about real people (mothers, fathers, sons), not just statistics.
- ★ **Distinguish clearly between asylum and immigration** – emphasise that asylum seekers and refugees are here asking for protection and are part of a different process than migrant workers.