

## **Learning English through Debating**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman. Today our team is in opposition to the motion "Hong Kong students should spend more hours in school each day." Unquestionably, Hong Kong students should not spend more hours in school each day. We have three forceful arguments to explain our views.

Firstly, there is a misconception that spending long hours in school is beneficial to students. Students usually are required to stay longer time in school either to attend enhancement class or extra-curricular activities. From students' point of views, these school activities and extra lessons are useful. However, have you ever thought about having extra lessons or attending extra-curricular activities everyday definitely would make students feel even more stressed. In fact, their span of concentration will become shorter. Therefore, the effectiveness of extra lessons may not be as high as what most teachers and parents have expected. Regarding to after school activities, many students like to pursue their own interests which the school may not provide for them. So, they would like to attend their interest class outside school. If students stay long hours, this means they attend their interest classes even much later. This will lessen the time for students to rest or do homework. It is indisputable that students should have a balanced life. Apart from studies, they need to spend time with their family members and to chill out with friends. No students want to be confined in a classroom over half a day and return home to do homework until mid-night. In this way, work-play balance is only a dream for students and I believe that students will lack the communication and interaction with others.

Secondly, the school administration needs to rearrange a lot of policies in order to go along with longer school hours. The school office hours would be extended. This means the staff and janitors would have longer working hours because they help teachers to monitor the students in the school playground. Besides, parents are concerned with the safety issues. It is the responsibility for the school to place enough staff to safeguard the students' safety while they are in school.

Lastly, from teachers' perspective, having long hours in school would increase their workload. Since they have to prepare lots of extra lessons for their students, it reduces their time to rest and have some family activities. They already have to be at school early, then teaching students for long periods and staying late to mark their students' work. If they have to leave even later, it negatively affects their quality of life. Some

teachers may also blame that they have to work for a whole day. If they still have some extra lessons with their students, they may not be able to cope with it. They feel very tired because of the amount of extra school work.

I believe that you will agree that each of the arguments we presented is good enough to prove that the motion today must not stand. The validity of the motion "Hong Kong students should spend more hours in school each day. " is simply ungrounded.

Thank you very much.