

Debate a school rain-garden location

Pupil cards and task

Audience: Years 8 to 9 Geography pupils

Use fictional school site notes and stated constraints to compare two rain-garden locations and justify a group decision.

Fictional school site notes

Two places are available for a small rain garden.

- **Site A, north yard:** beside a downpipe, 4 m by 3 m, shaded in the morning, 8 m from the classroom door.
- **Site B, south yard:** 5 m by 2 m, receives afternoon sun, beside the main path and 2 m from the door.

Motion

"Our class should recommend Site A."

Assign the roles

Cut along the dashed borders. Single-sided cards; 4 mm spacing between cards.

Chair

Read the motion, invite each round and keep the discussion to the agreed order.

Site A speaker

Make one claim for Site A using an exact site note.

Site B speaker

Make one claim for Site B using an exact site note.

Evidence checker

Check that each claim matches the notes and name what remains unknown.

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Challenger

Ask one respectful question about access, shade, space or missing evidence.

Summariser

Record one accepted point, one unresolved question and the group's final decision.

With fewer than six pupils, combine the evidence-checker and challenger roles.

Debate rounds

1. **Plan:** each speaker chooses a site detail and one reason.
2. **Open:** Site A and Site B speakers each give a claim with evidence.
3. **Challenge and reply:** ask one question, then let the other speaker respond.
4. **Summarise:** record the strongest point for each site, the unknowns and the group's choice.

Site A area: $4 \times 3 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ m². Site B area: $5 \times 2 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ m². Which site is closer to the door?

Ground rules: one voice at a time; challenge the idea, not the person; use a site detail; summarise before replying.