

Which is better: single-sex or co-ed schools?

By: Mourad Eladraoui

1. Watch the video:

2. Read the text and choose your side

DEBATE PREPARATION (bonus 3 points):

(Who will be voted the best debaters????)

Single-Sex Schools and Co-Ed Schools is a topic which has been a concern for many parents. It has become a big issue for parents to reach a conclusion as to which one is better. Let us understand both points of views and reach a righteous conclusion.

Single-sex schools

According to the supporters of SS, girls who attend single-sex schools are more confident about themselves as learners in subjects such as mathematics and physics than in coeducational schools. In the absence of boys, the girls also feel less constrained in engaging in classroom discussions.

Researchers also found that students at single-sex schools had not only superior academic achievement, but also had higher educational aspirations, more confidence in their abilities, and a more positive attitude toward academics, than did students at coed high schools. Some studies also revealed that girls tend to be more competitive in a single sex setting as they lose their shyness and begin to take risks.

As for boys attending single-sex, research shows that their confidence levels in physics and mathematics are found to be equally high, and they boisterously engage in classroom discussion. Also, they tend to be less competitive in the absence of girls and become more collaborative in a single-sex setting. They worry less about what the girls might think of them and be themselves.

Coeducational schools

The supporters of CE as opposed to SS view, prove that boys do better in the classroom if girls are present. This is done to give a good example of themselves and to be in the good eyes of the girls.

They also claim that social skills are easily acquired in a co-educational environment. This is because it is reflective of society. Research in this area shows that students from single-sex schools are more hesitant about expressing their views in front of members of the opposite sex and have more trouble forming friendships with the opposite sex as well.

In another study based on an interview with the students, the socialization of pupils leads to improved social and personal development. Both girls and boys in co-ed school were reportedly more self-confident, well-balanced and better equipped to make new friends than their counterparts in single-sex schools.

Single-sex school suffer from student diversity. It may be easier for students to do well academically at a single sex institution but the real world is not single sex. Having both men and women in classes allow students of both sexes to interact with a wider range of people and learn how to work with and talk to people of the opposite sex.

Debate Preparation Worksheet

Question: Which is better: single-sex school or co-educational schools?

I. What do the debaters do?

1. Debaters:

- research the topic and prepare logical arguments.
- gather supporting evidence and examples for position taken.
- anticipate counter arguments and prepare rebuttals (evidence to counter an argument).

II. Instructions:

- Think about the question and the text, then get into your assigned group.
- Work with your group to develop a claim and three supporting reasons. For each reason, locate supporting text evidence.
- Work with your group to **develop an opposing argument** and **three reasons** to **refute** it. It is beneficial to think about this because then you can be prepared to refute this argument.
- Work with your group to develop questions for the other side that will **elicit elaboration**.
- Form **two parallel lines** so that each group is in a different line facing each other.
- One group presents **their claim** and **three reasons**. Repeat with the other group.
- Engage in a conversation using accountable talk. **Bring in the questions** you prepared for the other group and **the reasons and text evidence** you prepared for your group's claims.
- During the conversation, as reasons and/or evidence are presented that result in a change of position, visually demonstrate your change in position by switching "sides" and moving to the other line. This can and should happen multiple times throughout the debate
- **Conclude the debate by revising your claim and declare in writing your final position, reasons, and supporting evidence in answer to the initial question**