

Financial Literacy 10

DEBATE TIME

**“Money is the root of all evil.
It often brings out the worst in people.”**

Randomly divide the class into AGREE or DISAGREE

Step 1: Prepare for the debate by independently writing down your initial ideas.



What is the focus here? Is it the "love of money" or an unhealthy attachment to wealth, rather than money itself. Money, as a tool, is neutral—it can be used for both positive and negative purposes depending on how it is acquired and utilized.

Can people get an excessive attachment or love of money, to the point where it becomes a person's primary focus and value, that can lead to negative consequences? Is money itself evil; or is it the attitude and actions of the person (driven by an intense desire for wealth) that can be problematic?

Is money a tool to provide for ourselves and help others or is it something more? Which determines people's behaviors and intentions, the money we have or the individual person and their values?

Can money be good AND bad? Money can be used to support oneself and others, contribute to the community, invest in education, healthcare, and other essential services, but it can also be misused for personal gain at the expense of ethical principles. While some individuals may be driven by greed or a desire for excessive wealth, others may use their financial resources for positive purposes, such as philanthropy, supporting their communities, or investing in socially responsible initiatives.

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Step 2: In pairs discuss the following topics with an opponent. Then jot down so notes for both sides of the argument.

Charity

Sweatshops

Fast Fashion

Homelessness

Star Trek

Bank Loans

Human Trafficking

Housing

Shark Tank Investors Gambling

Interest

Theft

Gifts

Cults

Old Money

Class System

Food

Money Laundering

Inheritance

Divorce

Communal Living/Avatar

Make a Wish Foundation

Art

Value to Contributions

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Step 3: The whole class participates in a debate. Challenge is to switch speakers.

Consider the following:

- Why do families fight over money?
- Do rich superstars have high rate of divorce because of all the money they have?
- Reality TV shows show a glamorous/rich lifestyle but are they really happy?
Does money buy happiness?
- Is it better to be rich and miserable (with a house/car/means to live extravagantly) or poor and happy with what you have (low standard of living, but still able to live)

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Consider these situations:

- Some people are wealthy and very generous with their money to help others (Oprah Winfrey)
- Some people are wealthy and are corrupt in the pursuit of greater financial gain (Sam Bankman-Fried charged with stealing \$10 billion in crypto fraud with FTX)
- Some people are very poor and still give to others through volunteering and charities
- Some people are very poor and steal from others to try to get ahead.

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Step 4: EXIT SLIP:

Now what do YOU think? Did the debate influence your thinking?

- write a draft and final copy.