

Theme 2: The Wealth Gap

Situation 2: A Debate about Housing in Hong Kong

Four secondary school students are members of their school's English debating team. They are preparing for an inter-school debate. The motion they will be debating is, 'All Hong Kong people should be entitled to a one thousand square foot living space'. The students are the Opposition or Negative side, and so are speaking against the motion.

Characters: Li Chan Koo Chow

Notes: Li is the team captain. Chan and Koo are members of the debating team. Chow assists the team with their research and speech-writing. Li, Kan, Koo and Chow can be either male or female.

SCRIPT

- Li:** It was hard to get all of you here at the same time! Why are you so busy?
- Chan:** We have a Maths test in two days, remember? Why do we have to meet today, Li? This is not a good time.
- Li:** Well, we have an inter-school-debate coming up next week and we need to prepare.
- Koo:** I don't know why we have to worry, we never win any debates.
- Chow:** Would you stop being so negative, Koo? It is good to try.
- Koo:** It is ok for you, Chow, you are very good at Mathematics.
- Chow:** No, I'm not.
- Li:** Stop arguing, you two. The important thing is the debate! Now, let's start thinking!
- Chan:** We are the negative side in this debate, aren't we?
- Koo:** That's right. It will be really hard to win this debate. Actually, I agree with the motion. I think all Hong Kong residents should live in flats larger than 1000 square feet in size.
- Li:** Well, it is not very helpful if you agree with the motion! Let's think about this. Firstly, how to we define 'Hong Kong people'? Does it mean anyone with a Hong Kong identity card or Chinese people with a HKSAR travel document?
- Chow:** I don't think it is not a good idea to start with the question of who Hong Kong people are. It is too difficult to answer that question.
- Chan:** Perhaps we can give the audience some examples of real situations in Hong Kong. Some poor people live in 'cage homes' where there is only a bed to lie on. Others live in huge flats! It is very unfair.
- Li:** I know it is unfair, but not everyone needs to live in a flat of 1000 square feet. What if you are a single person? One thousand square feet is too much for a single person.
- Chow:** It is impossible to decide how much living space a person needs or should have. But it is true that some people live in huge homes and may even travel abroad many times a year, so their home is empty.

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Koo: How do you know that is true?
Chow: I read it on the internet.
Li: When did you read it? Is it true? Can we check the information?
Chan: Yes, let's check it. I don't understand how this information helps us with our debate, though.
Koo: I don't know either.
Li: Some people may prefer living in small homes. You will pay less rent and your electricity bills will be lower too.
Koo: Good idea. Write that down, Chow.
Chow: I am not your servant. I help you, but I don't do all the work for you.
Chan: You are not doing any work now!
Li: Stop arguing! Kan, you write that point down. Now, perhaps we could say that the government should provide a flat for everyone, whether they are single or part of a family.
Chow: What? Is the government like your mother? Why should the government provide things like housing?
Chan: Some people are unemployed or sick or old and cannot afford to live in large flats.
Chow: I know that, but I don't think the government should provide everything. People have to help themselves.
Li: The other team may make some of these points. We should write them down.
Koo: Sorry, Li, it is 4.45pm already. I have to go home and study. The Maths test is important.
Li: We have only just started! You can't go - that is unfair to us! What about your team-mates?