MODUL

DEBATE AND COLLABORATIVE WRITING
THE WORLD SCHOLAR'S CUP

World Scholar's Cup 2024: Reimagining the Present

This theme offers a springboard for both debate and creative writing, encouraging a critical and imaginative exploration of our current world. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Debate Material

- **Resolution:** This World Scholar's Cup prefers a formatted debate with a central resolution. Here's an option:
    - **Be it resolved:** In order to reimagine the present, we must prioritize radical change over incremental progress.
- **Arguments FOR the Resolution:**
    - The current system has systemic flaws that incremental changes can't address (e.g., income inequality, environmental degradation).
    - Radical change can foster innovation and lead to a more just and sustainable future.
    - Examples of historical moments where radical change led to positive outcomes (e.g., civil rights movements).
- **Arguments AGAINST the Resolution:**
    - Radical change can be disruptive and lead to unforeseen consequences.
    - Incremental progress can lead to lasting change with less risk.
    - Examples of successful incremental changes (e.g., advancements in renewable energy).
- **Additional Considerations:**
    - Define "radical change" for the debate context.
    - Explore different areas where we might need radical change vs. incremental progress (e.g., education, technology).
    - Consider the role of ethical considerations and unintended consequences.

Creative Writing

- **Genre:** The World Scholar's Cup allows for various genres. Here are a few options that fit the theme:
    - **Dystopian story:** Imagine a future where a radical reimagining of the present led to an unintended outcome.
    - **Utopian story:** Showcase a world where a specific area of our present was reimagined for the better (e.g., education, healthcare).
    - **Science fiction:** Explore the possibilities of technological advancements that could radically change society.
    - **Historical fiction:** Reimagine a historical event with a different outcome, highlighting its potential impact on the present.

- **Elements to Consider:**
    - Focus on a specific aspect of the present that needs reimagining (e.g., education, work-life balance, social media).
    - Develop compelling characters who represent different perspectives on the reimagined world.
    - Consider the potential benefits and drawbacks of the new system.
    - Use vivid language and imagery to bring your reimagined world to life.

Additional Resources:

- World Scholar's Cup Themes: https://www.scholarscup.org/themes/
- Debate Tips: https://www.scholarscup.org/events/
- Creative Writing Prompts: https://www.writersdigest.com/be-inspired/writing-prompts

Introductory Questions

- Would your life be more different if you had been born in the same place 30 years ago, or in another country 3000 kilometres away?
- The "now" is a single moment in time, but the past is very large. Should we spend more time learning about the parts of the past that affect us today?
- How should we divide the past into smaller units when we think about it?
- What historical dates are worth remembering in specific detail, and which ones are best left vague?
- The Soviet leader Vladmir Lenin once wrote that "there are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks in which decades happen." If so, do you think people are aware of the kind of time they are living in—and what kind of time are we living in now?
- Has the Internet affected how quickly history happens? How about how quickly the present *becomes* history?
- Does it matter how the world came to be what it is, or should we focus more on what it is right now? In other words, does the past matter, or would we be better off pretending it never happened?
- If you wanted to learn about a time in the past, would you rather read a book, visit a museum, watch a documentary, chat with an AI reconstruction of someone alive back then, or explore an old architectural site?
- How much will global climate change require us to rethink everyday institutions such as schools and workplaces?
- Are there are other developments—other than an alien invasion—that might have impacts on the same scale?
- The phrase "there's no time like the present" is usually meant as a counter to procrastination. Do something now, not later. Finish this outline today, not in 2025. Taking it more literally, however: is the present really a unique point in history? If so, does it make it harder for us to understand what the past was like?
- "Those who do not study history are doomed to repeat it" is a phrase those who study history like to repeat, but is it possible that those who *do* study history are doomed to absorb the things we like least about it? Put another way: does knowing more about the past limit or enhance our ability to reimagine the present?