

# EPAS Student Kick-off Session

Debate and diversity in the European Parliament (EP)

## Aims

- For Junior Ambassadors (JAs) to run a session introducing EPAS and the EU to other students in the school.
- Participants start to think critically about the EU: what it is, what its values are and where it is going.
- Participants understand that the EU is not a monolithic bloc, it encompasses MEPs from a huge range of political viewpoints.
- Participants understand that the EP represents the diversity of the EU - or at least seeks to.

## Methodology

The session is run using Ahaslides; this enables participants to interact and take part in quizzes with live leaderboards.

Participants will be in one of the following set-ups:

- In small groups, each with an internet-connected computer.
- Working individually, each with an internet-connected computer/phone.

We will be using ahaslides.com for interactive elements, please check that it is not blocked in your school/college.

The slideshow is here for JAs to copy and adapt to their needs:

<https://presenter.ahaslides.com/share/epas-kick-off-session-diversity-debate-1643186918574-aj47vnpt18>

Time	Purpose	Detail
5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce yourselves</li> <li>• Introduce EPAS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain who you are.</li> <li>• Explain what the purpose of EPAS is.</li> <li>• Explain what Junior Ambassadors do:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Debate</li> <li>○ Cultural activities</li> <li>○ InfoPoint</li> <li>○ Campaigning</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain EU's values &amp; history</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test the tech: can students interact with ahaslides?</li> <li>• Presentation on the values and history of the EU. Students are asked to discuss what they would consider to be the 'birth of the EU'.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Define the EU's values</li> <li>○ Explain key developments in each decade of the EU's history</li> <li>○ Debate which of these is most significant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the diversity within the EU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EU quiz to demonstrate some of the diversity within the EU and EP.</li> <li>• Students answer quick questions on the UK: helps grasp the idea that talking about a country as a monolith doesn't make sense.</li> <li>• Students are asked quick questions about the EU and EP - composition, demographics.</li> <li>• Students are asked to rank EU member states on various metrics - demographics, economics, geography.</li> <li>• Students are introduced to the EP and political groups in the EP. Students are asked to match statements to the political group that made them.</li> </ul>
10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EU and the UK</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick debate in small groups. Rank which issues you think the UK and EU should prioritise working together on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Climate change</li> <li>○ Science &amp; medicine</li> <li>○ Asylum, aid and human rights</li> <li>○ Trade &amp; the economy</li> <li>○ The digital world</li> <li>○ Peace &amp; security</li> <li>○ Food &amp; farming</li> <li>○ Culture &amp; education</li> </ul> </li> </ul>