



THANKSGIVING

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B1–C1 • Debate and Discussion

Use evidence, clear reasoning, and respectful language. Disagree with ideas without attacking the people who express them.

A. Debate motions

Choose one motion for a structured discussion.

- Schools should teach both familiar holiday traditions and the difficult parts of their history.
- Public holidays should change when new historical evidence or perspectives become widely known.
- A celebration can preserve community traditions while acknowledging harm in the past.
- Family traditions are strongest when younger generations can question and adapt them.

B. Build an argument 👉

1. State your position in one clear sentence.
2. Give two reasons that support your position.
3. Provide an example or evidence for at least one reason.
4. Explain one reasonable counterargument.
5. Respond to the counterargument respectfully.

D. Discussion questions

1. Who should help decide how a national holiday is taught: families, schools, historians, communities, or governments?
2. How can teachers discuss painful history without making students feel personally blamed for the past?
3. When does simplifying a story become misleading?
4. What makes a source trustworthy when people disagree about history?
5. Can a tradition be meaningful even if its popular origin story is incomplete?
6. What practical steps could make a public celebration more inclusive?

C. Useful language

I would argue that...

One reason for this is...

A relevant example is...

I understand that point;
however,...

An alternative view is...

The evidence suggests...

We should distinguish
between...

I agree with part of that
argument, but...

E. Reflection

Write one argument you found convincing and explain why. Then write one question you still have.

Teacher note:

Encourage learners to challenge claims, not classmates.

Do not ask students to represent an entire nation, culture, or Indigenous community.

Reward evidence, careful distinctions, and thoughtful listening.