Stimulus statements

The stimulus statements are designed to give the students the opportunity to gain a medical and/or biological overview of a topic while weighing up ethical and social concerns. They aim to promote discussion and develop their understanding of controversial activities in science. The students will need to work in small groups. Each group of students need to take one of the stimulus statements from the topic they are working on.

- Use and misuse of antibiotics (*Microbes and the human body*)
- Vaccination – just a shot in the arm (*Microbes and the human body*)
- Helping the environment – should we do our bit? (*Microbes and the outdoors*)
  (*Microbes and climate change*)

They need to draw up a table listing the arguments both for and against the statement.

Good research is critical – the students must be well informed to be able to argue their point.

Two students from each group then present their arguments either for or against the statement to the house. They must be able to think on their feet and answer questions from the floor. They can be supported by the rest of their group. Having listened to the evidence the house votes either for or against the statement.