Controversial Topics

Part 1

A. Look at the photo. In pairs, discuss the questions.

1. What kinds of food do you see in the photo?
2. Is it easy to get these kinds of food at your school? Explain.
3. What kinds of foods are easy to get at your school?

B. Read the arguments for and against having vegetarian food only in schools. Write the arguments in the correct columns.

Schools should have vegetarian food only.

- Not eating meat creates more food for the world.

- Vegetarian food doesn't have all the proteins students need.

- Eating a lot of meat is bad for our health.

- Students should choose the food they want—not schools!

- Some students don't like vegetables.

- Vegetables are important for our health.

- We shouldn't kill animals for food.

- School cafeteria workers don't know how to cook vegetarian food.

- Some vegetarian foods—like French fries—are unhealthy!

FOR	AGAINST
Not eating meat creates more food for the world.	

C. Decide which arguments in activity B you agree or disagree with. Talk about your opinions and reasons in pairs.

A: *Do you think schools should only have vegetarian food?*
B: *Yes, I do. Vegetables are good for our health. What about you?*

Part 2

A. Read the list of proposals for school students. Are you for or against the ideas? Circle FOR or AGAINST.

Proposals for School Students

1. All school students should volunteer in the local community. **FOR / AGAINST**
2. There should be no fast food restaurants within 1 km of schools. **FOR / AGAINST**
3. There should be different schools for boys and girls. **FOR / AGAINST**
4. Students should wear school uniforms. **FOR / AGAINST**
5. Students should not use social media at school. **FOR / AGAINST**

B. In pairs, choose one proposal from activity A. Complete the sentence with your opinions.

I'm for / against the idea that ... because ...

_____

_____

C. Join another a pair with the same opinion as yours. Compare your opinions and make notes.

We are for / against the idea that ... because ...

_____

_____

Part 3

A. **Read the article. Then choose the correct option.**

https://foodforshchools.co

End of Junk Food for School Kids?

Think about it: how often do you stop at a store on your way to school to buy some candy, cookies, or a soda? Every day? Once a week? Well, in Mexico, this may stop in the future. This is because some government officials want to stop anyone under 18 from buying unhealthy food and drinks such as potato chips and soft drinks. They say it's bad for their health. We asked two teens in Mexico what they think of this new idea.

Magda from Guadalajara says, "I don't think it's good for the store owners. They make money from people under 18. And kids who can't buy candy and soft drinks from a store can buy it from people who sell things in the street anyway. They need to teach kids in schools about diet and food so kids can make healthy choices."

Javier from Oaxaca disagrees. He says, "A lot of children in my neighborhood eat unhealthy food on the way to school. We should only buy unhealthy things when our parents agree. Or we can choose healthy food such as fruit and fresh juice."

Could this idea work where you live?

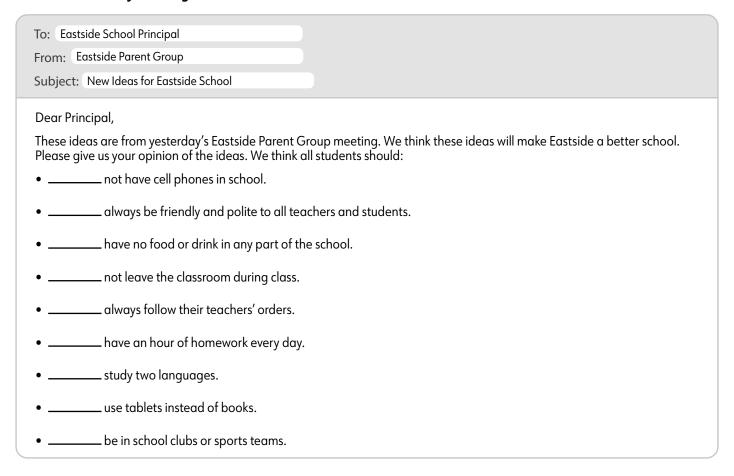| store candy cookies soda potato chips	shop sweets biscuits fizzy drink crisps

Stores should not sell unhealthy snacks to people under 18.

1. Magda is *for / against* the new idea.
2. Javier is *for / against* with the new idea.

B. **Read the article again. Underline the arguments you agree with and circle the arguments you disagree with.**

C. **Work in pairs. Do you agree or disagree with the idea that stores should not sell unhealthy food to people under 18? Use information from the article in activity A and your own ideas.**

Extension

A. **Read the email a group of parents wrote to a school principal. Check (✓) the ideas you agree with or write (✗) next to the ideas you disagree with.**

To: Eastside School Principal

From: Eastside Parent Group

Subject: New Ideas for Eastside School

Dear Principal,

These ideas are from yesterday's Eastside Parent Group meeting. We think these ideas will make Eastside a better school. Please give us your opinion of the ideas. We think all students should:

- _____ not have cell phones in school.

- _____ always be friendly and polite to all teachers and students.

- _____ have no food or drink in any part of the school.

- _____ not leave the classroom during class.

- _____ always follow their teachers' orders.

- _____ have an hour of homework every day.

- _____ study two languages.

- _____ use tablets instead of books.

- _____ be in school clubs or sports teams.

B. **Work in pairs. Compare your answers from A. Give reasons.**

C. **Choose five ideas from the list that you think are important. Make a poster with those ideas and share it with the class.**