

## The world's biggest news festival for young people

**Dates**

April 10th-May  
26th 2023

**Audience**

10-14 year-olds  
Government-  
funded schools

**Website**

[bit.ly/  
TopicalTalkFestival](https://bit.ly/TopicalTalkFestival)

## What is Topical Talk Festival?

Topical Talk Festival is a seven-week global discussion between schools and leading topic experts on the top news stories and issues of our time: from socio-political topics like racism and equity to sustainability and the "climate crisis".

Each festival is packed with inspiring activities, online events and awards for thoughtful conversations and ideas.

## What happens during a Festival?



**Teach:** teach a one  
hour, fully-resourced  
lesson per week from  
our festival collection



**Discuss and debate:**  
students log on to our  
Festival Student Hub to  
discuss and debate  
their opinions



**Win:** schools and  
students win awards  
and gain global  
recognition for their  
comments



## **What do I do during a Festival?**

During the Festival, you will choose from our collection of six , one-hour resources to teach once a week. All our lessons are fully prepared and resources - just download and teach! From week 5 of the Festival, you will support your students to create their Standpoints.

## **What do my students do during a Festival?**

After each Topical Talk lesson, your students log on to the Festival Student Hub to discuss and debate what they've learned with other students from all over the world. They'll encounter different perspectives, ask questions to leading topic experts and win awards for their comments.

## **What is a Standpoint?**

From week 5 of the Festival, students will start working on their Standpoints. A Standpoint is a final piece of work which expresses their opinions on one or more of the topics they have learnt about in class and on the Festival Student Hub. Standpoints can be a written, audio or video piece. Once uploaded to the Hub, Standpoints will be judged by our expert Economist judges and awarded prizes.

## **Where in my curriculum do I teach Topical Talk?**

Topical Talk lessons have many links across the curriculum through topics like climate change and sustainability, global politics and STEM. Our resources also develop oracy and debate, news and media literacy and critical thinking skills, as well as having links to how safeguarding is explored through the curriculum.



## **I'm on holiday during the Festival period, can I still take part?**

Yes! Simply start later or pick up where you left off when you return.

## **What will I need to do to prepare for Festival lessons?**

Almost nothing! Simply read the teacher instructions and print any necessary materials. All our lessons are fully resourced and ready to teach!

## **What is the Festival Student Hub?**

The Hub is where your students come to discuss and share their opinions in the form of comments. It is fully-moderated, safe and anonymous. All posts are read by Foundation staff before being approved and students use an anonymous username - or 'Hub handle' - so their personal details are never shared. You can find out more about our safeguarding policy on our website.

## **Who is eligible for the Festival?**

The Festival is suitable for students aged 10-14 with B2 level English or above. It is open to all government-funded schools and costs £299 per class of 34 students.

If your school serves a high proportion of disadvantaged students or students with high needs, please email [foundationteam@economist.com](mailto:foundationteam@economist.com) to discuss funding options.

## **How do I sign up?**

Go to [talk.economistfoundation.org](http://talk.economistfoundation.org) and follow these two simple steps:

1. [Create a free Topical Talk account](#)

2. [Register for the Festival](#)

