

## Teens in the USA: Missouri – Katie – Between wildlife and music



Lincoln und Katie are 15 years old and are good at handling firearms. In Herman almost every family has firearms and ammunition at their homes. What do you think about that? Is it right to legalize the possession of guns? Prepare a discussion in groups. The position every group represents is given below.

“It’s a very peaceful town. It has a very low crime rate. The burglars stay away because here in Herman a lot of people go hunting. So almost everybody has a firearm in his basement or somewhere else in the house.”



“When it’s not hunting season we shoot clay birds. We do this to still get used to shooting. And it’s always a fun thing to do that, it’s kind of competitive.”

### The group positions

#### Position 1:

You take over Katie’s and Lincoln’s position. Possession of firearms leads to a low crime rate and shooting is a sport in Missouri.

#### Position 2:

You represent a lawyer who is strictly against the possession of firearms at all. You are convinced that the reason for the low crime rate is the fact that Hermann is a small town where people know each other.

#### Position 3:

You represent a teacher at Katie’s school. He/she is worried about the fact that teenagers are allowed to use firearms so early. The teacher thinks gun laws in the US are responsible for shooting sprees at American schools.

### Procedure fishbowl discussion:

- Prepare your role for the discussion. Select two members of your group to be your first representatives for the inner circle.
- Arrange the chairs in two concentric circles, an inner and an outer circle. The students that participate in the discussion sit in the inner circle. The other group members take a seat in the outer circle. They will observe and evaluate the discussion.
- If you want to join the discussion just tap someone in the inner circle on the shoulder. This can be the case when somebody in the fishbowl runs out of arguments or dominates the discussion.
- If you want to leave the inner circle indicate that to the group by a sign.

### language support

I agree/I disagree with you because... – You may be right but... – I know but... – I see your point but... – I think so, too. – You must be joking! – I strongly believe that... – I’m afraid I don’t agree with you there. – I quite agree. – Well, the way I see it... – From my point of view... – In my opinion... – On the one hand I agree but on the other hand I disagree because...

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*Evaluate the discussion. Tick the field which you think applies best to the discussion. Use a different colour for each candidate. After the discussion is over, give a feedback. What went well? What could be improved?*

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<b>Respect for discussion partners</b>	You showed respect for other members of the inner circle throughout the discussion.	You sometimes showed respect for other members of the inner circle.	Everyone has the right to speak freely and to finish his/her statement: Be patient and don't interrupt.
	You paid attention to appropriate turn-taking.	You sometimes paid attention to appropriate turn-taking.	Be fair and give everyone the chance to participate in the discussion.
	You used appropriate language and body language.	You sometimes used appropriate language and body language.	Try to use technical terms or quotations. Calm down, sit straight and hold eye contact.
<b>Information</b>	You presented all information in the discussion in a clear, accurate and thorough way.	You sometimes presented all the information in the discussion in a clear, accurate and thorough way.	Tell the source of your references and information and explain its reliability.
<b>Rebuttal</b>	All counter-arguments were accurate, relevant and strong.	Some of the counter-arguments were accurate, relevant and strong.	Support your counter-arguments by referring to reliable sources.
<b>Argumentation</b>	All arguments were clearly tied to an idea and organized in a logical fashion.	Some of the arguments were clearly tied to an idea and organized in a logical fashion.	Follow the "1-3-Rule": Express 1 idea and support it with 3 arguments.
<b>Understanding of topic</b>	You clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented the information convincingly.	You understood most of the topic in-depth and presented the information mostly convincingly.	Try to get a deeper understanding of the topic by reading summaries or talking to your teacher or experts.