

## **Debate Topic: Should the drinking age be lowered to 18?**

### *Opening statement in favor of lowering the drinking age:*

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining us for this important debate. Today we will discuss the issue of whether the drinking age should be lowered to 18. As a supporter of this idea, I believe that it is time to reconsider our current laws and regulations related to alcohol consumption. Lowering the drinking age would have several positive effects, including reducing alcohol-related incidents and promoting responsible drinking among young adults.

First of all, it is important to note that 18-year-olds are considered adults in many other aspects of their lives, such as voting, serving in the military, and signing contracts. It seems unfair to deny them the right to consume alcohol, which is a legal substance, simply because of their age. Moreover, many young adults in the 18-21 age range are already consuming alcohol, despite the current laws. This puts them at risk of legal repercussions, as well as unsafe drinking practices, such as binge drinking.

Lowering the drinking age would also help to reduce alcohol-related incidents, such as drunk driving and alcohol poisoning. If young adults were allowed to consume alcohol legally, they would be more likely to do so in a safe and responsible manner. Additionally, with a lower drinking age, there would be less need for underground, unregulated drinking establishments that often serve underage individuals.

Finally, lowering the drinking age would encourage young adults to learn responsible drinking habits, rather than simply experimenting with alcohol in secret. By allowing them to consume alcohol legally, we could teach them about the risks and consequences associated with excessive drinking, and promote moderation and responsible behavior.

In conclusion, I believe that lowering the drinking age to 18 would have several positive effects, including promoting responsible drinking, reducing alcohol-related incidents, and treating young adults as the responsible adults that they are. Thank you.

### *Opening statement against lowering the drinking age:*

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining us for this important debate. Today we will discuss the issue of whether the drinking age should be lowered to 18. As an opponent of this idea, I

believe that it is important to maintain the current laws and regulations related to alcohol consumption. Lowering the drinking age would have several negative effects, including increasing alcohol-related incidents and promoting irresponsible drinking among young adults.

First of all, it is important to note that the current drinking age of 21 was established for a reason. Research has shown that the brain continues to develop well into the mid-20s, and alcohol can have a negative impact on this development. Allowing young adults to consume alcohol before their brains have fully matured could have long-term consequences, such as increased risk of addiction and cognitive impairments.

Lowering the drinking age would also increase the likelihood of alcohol-related incidents, such as drunk driving and alcohol poisoning. Young adults are already at a higher risk of these incidents, and allowing them to consume alcohol legally would only increase this risk. Moreover, with a lower drinking age, there would be less enforcement of current laws related to alcohol consumption, as it would be more difficult to differentiate between legal and illegal consumption.

Finally, lowering the drinking age would send a message that alcohol consumption is acceptable for young adults, which could promote irresponsible drinking habits. Young adults are already more likely to engage in risky behaviors, and allowing them to consume alcohol legally would only reinforce this behavior. Rather than promoting responsible drinking, lowering the drinking age would likely lead to more alcohol-related incidents and health problems.

In conclusion, I believe that maintaining the current drinking age of 21 is necessary to protect the health and safety of young adults. Thank you.