

## Giving counter ideas

To demonstrate your discussion skills, you should never just give a single statement to show your disagreement. Instead, you should support it with a reason or propose an **alternative**.

**H.** Help the students complete their dialogues by either giving a valid reason or suggesting an alternative.

<p>1. Old buildings must be pulled down to spare land for redevelopment.</p>	<p>I don't take your point because _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>
<p>2. Trams should be replaced by a new kind of transport.</p>	<p>I'm afraid I can't agree with you because _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>
<p>3. The old customs have to <b>fade out</b>.</p>	<p>I'm sorry I don't think so because _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>
<p>4. The exhibition can be held on weekdays.</p>	<p>Would it be better to have it on weekends as _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____?</p>
<p>5. I think we should give fines to those breaking the rules.</p>	<p>I don't think it works, and _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>
<p>6. I think Cantonese opera is outdated.</p>	<p>I'm sorry I can't agree with you because _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>

### Vocabulary Building

alternative (n)  
可供選擇的事物

fade out (phr v)  
逐漸消失



## Keeping a pre-viewing record for non-print fiction

Non-print fiction refers to visual presenting materials, such as films and videos. Before you view a film, you should do some background research to gather more information about it. This helps you get a better idea of the film before viewing. It is also a good preparation for your oral presentation.

For example:

**Title:** *Ratatouille*

**Type / Genre:** (Tick the appropriate box)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action               | <input type="checkbox"/> Adventure       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animation | <input type="checkbox"/> Comedy          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horror               | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romance              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science fiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____        |  |

**Theme:** Perseverance is the key to success.

**Favourite character(s):** Rémy

**Director:** Brad Bird

**Production year:** 2007

**Origin:** USA

**Plot / Setting:**

A country rat strives to fulfill his lifelong dream of cooking in a great French restaurant. He tries his best to overcome the difficulties.

**Reason(s) for choosing this film:**

I love watching animation films very much, especially those produced by Pixar. Its films such as *Finding Nemo* (2003), *The Incredibles* (2004) and *Cars* (2006) are my favourite films. The stories are interesting and the characters are very fun to watch. Also, I know the sound effects in the film are fantastic.



# LANGUAGE ARTS STATION

## Learning English through Popular Culture

Bridging for  
NSS

### I. What is popular culture?

Popular culture is the culture of people, which is passed through mass communication such as newspapers, magazines, television, radio and the Internet. For example, the news articles we read, the advertisements and commercials we watch, the websites we visit, the slang<sup>1</sup> we use, etc., are all examples of popular culture.

The structure, style and use of words are different in different text types, such as reviews, newspaper and magazine columns, photo captions, advertisements, etc.

### II. Example Track 13

E01 Health

DAILY NEWS

25 March 2008

## Sweeteners may expand waistline

If you think sweeteners<sup>2</sup> can trim your waistline, then you may be wrong!

New research findings, which were recently released in the American journal *Behavioral Neuroscience*, show that rats on diets containing artificial sweetener gained more weight than those given sugary food. This seems to break the connection between sweet tastes and calories<sup>3</sup>.

In fact, Lyn Steffen, an associate professor of epidemiology<sup>4</sup> at the University of Minnesota, had similar findings in her previous research. It shows that people who drink diet soda have a higher risk of getting obese than those who drink regular soda.

However, the food and beverage<sup>5</sup> industries rejected the report, claiming that there are various factors leading to obesity. They said that although there has been an increasing use of sugar-free food

during recent years, the portion sizes of foods have also increased, while physical activities have decreased.

In the experiment, researchers fed the first group of nine rats with yogurt sweetened with saccharin<sup>6</sup> (a sweetener), and the second group of eight rats with yogurt sweetened with glucose<sup>7</sup> which has a composition similar to table sugar. Five weeks later, the first group gained an average of 88g compared to 72g for the second group. The first group had also consumed more calories with 5 percent more body fat than the second group.



<sup>1</sup> 俚語   <sup>2</sup> 甜味劑   <sup>3</sup> 卡路里   <sup>4</sup> 流行病學   <sup>5</sup> 飲料   <sup>6</sup> 糖精   <sup>7</sup> 葡萄糖