

Breathe Clean Challenge Activity:

Engine Idling

Classroom Debate

Split the class into two teams: one side are engine-idlers and one side are anti-idling campaigners. Have a debate! Use the prompts below to help you.

At the end, answer any questions that came up during the debate, using the fact checker on the next page.

Key word: Idling

When you leave your car engine running for over a minute when you are stationary or parked

Engine idler

These are the reasons why I want to idle



I want to keep the heating/air conditioning on



I'm waiting to pick someone up



I'm unloading/loading stuff from my car



I'm in traffic



Anti-idling campaigner

These are the reasons why I want to reduce idling



Idling affects children most



Idling for one minute creates 150 balloons of pollution



Idling also creates pollution inside the car



Turning off your engine saves money



Breathe Clean
in East Herts





Engine Idling Fact Check



MYTH

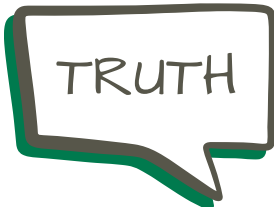
You need to idle to warm up the engine or keep it warm.

It is bad for the car to keep stopping and starting it.

It creates more pollution if you keep stopping and starting.

You need to idle to have the heating or air conditioning on.

Idling doesn't cost me money.



TRUTH

Modern car engines don't need warming up and will stay warm for 30 minutes.

Stopping and starting does not harm the engine, but idling can do.

After 10 seconds, idling will have burned more fuel than stopping and starting.

Modern car batteries are able to power these systems without the engine being on constantly.

Leaving your car's engine running for just two minutes is the same as driving your car for a mile. That's a lot of money wasted on fuel!

**Don't forget to submit your activity
to the Breathe Clean Challenge!**