

2E Tam Ka Ling

One-sided argumentative essay

Good afternoon Mr Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen.

The topic of our debate is “Trams should be removed from Hong Kong Island”. As the affirmative team, we believe that this statement is true. I am going to discuss three points.

My first argument is that other transport systems are much faster and more reliable. Trams are a low-cost and eco-friendly means of transport, but their disadvantages outweigh the benefits. Another problem is that, unlike cars and buses, trams are not suitable for present-day Hong Kong because they run on tracks along the busy streets of our city. While buses can move around obstacles, trams must wait for the road to clear before continuing their journey. In addition, their slow speed and frequent stops worsen the traffic congestion of the city.

Now to my second point, removing trams could free up space for other vehicles. One of the crowded streets in Hong Kong, Central, is always congested with cars, buses, trams, but by removing trams from some of the busiest roads, demolishing tracks and stops, we can free up more space for other transportation. One of the retired government town planners, Sit Kwok Keung, said trams occupied about 30% of the surface of the roads where they operated, and removing them could significantly improve the traffic in the district. Sit said now that the MTR West Island line had opened, the trams serving the area should be phased out.

My third argument is equally convincing as the tram operation is not as profitable as MTR and buses do. As Hong Kong tram fares are less than HKD\$5 each, it could not keep up with the income of other public transports along with their traveling speed. Therefore, removing trams in Hong Kong will not possibly worsen the economic situation of Hong Kong.

Regarding some opinions about preserving the trams set up on Hong Kong Island, the tram system of Hong Kong is one of the earliest forms of public transport in the metropolis, having opened in 1904 under British rule. It has a very long history and is the signature transportation of Hong Kong Island. I agree that Hong Kong is already a cultural desert, but other forms of existence can also replace trams. There are some solutions to this situation, for example, reserving one of the railways and a tram for establishing a museum for sightseeing next to the Hong Kong Observation Wheel & AIA Vitality Park in Central; transforming the double-decker bus in Hong Kong Island to resemble the tram, as they both have lots of similarities. The Big Bus Tours Company specializing in such sightseeing bus tours can schedule regular “tram” tours to become a new tourist attraction.

So, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. In conclusion, trams cannot keep up with the overall growth of our city. In contrast, other transportation is more capable, convenient, and profitable. Therefore, it is a must to remove trams from Hong Kong Island. Thank you.