

Persuasive Speech Builder with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify and use effective persuasive techniques, including rhetorical questions, emotive language, and modal verbs, to construct a persuasive speech.

Leo the Lion is preparing to give a speech to the animals of the forest about protecting their habitat. Help Leo complete his speech by choosing the best persuasive language from the word bank to fill in the gaps. Once you have filled in the blanks, use the questions below to evaluate the impact of your choices.

My fellow forest friends, we stand at a crossroads. Our home is beautiful, but it is under threat. _____ our precious trees be cut down for no reason? This destruction is _____ to our way of life. We _____ make a change today. _____ you agree that our future is worth fighting for? If we work _____, we _____ save our home. This is _____ the most important mission we have ever faced.

Word bank: Surely · devastating · Must we · brilliant · together · undoubtedly · can

1. Identify the rhetorical question you inserted into the speech. Why does using a rhetorical question make a speech more persuasive? (2 marks)

2. Look at the word 'devastating'. Why is this an example of emotive language, and how does it affect the listener? (2 marks)

3. Find the modal verb in the speech that shows possibility. Why is this word better than saying 'we will'? (2 marks)

4. If Leo wanted to make his speech even more persuasive, what is one piece of 'evidence' or 'fact' he could add to support his argument? (2 marks)

5. Rewrite the final sentence of the speech using a superlative adjective to make it sound even more urgent. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Leo the Lion standing on a large rock, looking out over his forest habitat with a microphone, ready to inspire his animal friends.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) that Leo could add to the end of his speech. Try to use a 'rule of three' (listing three things) to leave the audience feeling inspired!