

The Great School Garden Campaign: Persuasive Writing

Learning objective: To identify and use persuasive techniques such as rhetorical questions, emotive language, and modal verbs to influence a reader.

Read the speech written by Max the monkey, then answer the questions below to show your understanding of persuasive writing.

Dear Fellow Students, have you ever dreamed of a school garden filled with vibrant, sun-drenched sunflowers and crunchy, home-grown carrots? Currently, our playground is just a sea of grey concrete. It is time for a change! Imagine stepping outside to a green sanctuary where bees buzz happily and we can learn about nature first-hand. Building a garden would be a magnificent opportunity for every pupil to get their hands dirty and grow their own healthy snacks. We could easily raise the £200 needed for seeds and soil by hosting a charity bake sale. Surely, you agree that our learning environment deserves to be transformed into a beautiful, living classroom? Let us work together to make this dream a reality!

Word bank: persuade · emotive · rhetorical question · modal verbs · argument · exaggeration · influence

1. Identify one rhetorical question used by Max in his speech. Why do you think he included it? (2 marks)

2. Find an example of emotive language in the passage. How does this word choice make the reader feel? (2 marks)

3. Max suggests raising £200 for the project. If each student contributes £2, how many students would need to donate to reach the target? (1 mark)

4. Identify one modal verb in the passage (e.g., could, should, must) and explain how it adds to the persuasive tone. (2 marks)

5. What is the main argument Max is trying to make to his fellow students? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a design for the school garden Max is imagining. Include sunflowers, a vegetable patch, and a space where students might sit to read or study.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) from the perspective of a teacher who is unsure about the garden. Use at least one 'counter-argument' and one modal verb to express your opinion politely.