

Making Choices: A Guide to Moral Dilemmas

Learning objective: To explore and express personal viewpoints on moral questions using structured reasoning and balanced arguments.

Use the writing frame below to help you construct a balanced piece of writing about a difficult choice. Think about how Max the monkey might approach this as a puzzle, or how Leo the lion would consider the feelings of others.

A moral question is a situation where there is no single right answer, and we must weigh up the consequences of our actions carefully.

Word bank: on the other hand · consequently · however · from my perspective · morally speaking · furthermore · in conclusion · for this reason · nevertheless

1. The Situation: Briefly describe the dilemma you are exploring. Start by saying: 'The difficult choice I am considering is...' (2 marks)

2. The First Viewpoint: Why might someone choose the first option? Start by saying: 'One perspective is that... because...' (3 marks)

3. The Alternative Viewpoint: What are the risks or downsides of that choice? Start by saying: 'On the other hand, it could be argued that...' (3 marks)

4. Personal Reflection: What are the most important values to consider? Start by saying: 'When deciding what is right, we must prioritise...' (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: What is your final decision and why? Start by saying: 'In conclusion, I believe the best course of action is...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining how a 'Golden Rule' (treating others as you would like to be treated) might change the way someone approaches your chosen dilemma.