

The Great Debate: Should We Build a Wildlife Sanctuary in the Town Centre?

Learning objective: To evaluate, structure, and justify arguments for and against a proposal using formal, persuasive language appropriate for a Year 5 discussion text.

Max the monkey is helping the Town Council decide whether to turn the derelict car park into a nature sanctuary. Below is a list of arguments. Your task is to sort these into 'For' and 'Against' columns, then draft a balanced concluding paragraph that weighs both sides to reach a reasoned judgement.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · conversely · on the other hand · nevertheless · evidence suggests · in contrast · therefore · significantly

1. 1. Categorise the following points as 'For' or 'Against': (A) The sanctuary will increase local biodiversity; (B) Local residents will lose 40 parking spaces costing £5.00 per day; (C) It provides an educational space for schools; (D) The construction costs will exceed £20,000. (4 marks)

2. 2. Explain why it is important to include a 'counter-argument' paragraph in a discussion text. How does this make your writing more convincing? (2 marks)

3. 3. 'On the one hand, a sanctuary benefits the environment; however, on the other hand, the loss of parking impacts local trade.' Rewrite this sentence using a different conjunction from the word bank to maintain the same meaning. (2 marks)

4. 4. Justify your answer: If you were the Town Mayor, which single piece of evidence would you find most compelling and why? (3 marks)

5. 5. Compare and contrast the needs of the local wildlife (as observed by Bea the bee) with the needs of local shop owners. How can a discussion text address both? (3 marks)

6. 6. Draft a concluding paragraph for this discussion. Ensure you use a formal tone and provide a final recommendation based on the evidence provided. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'before and after' sketch of the town centre: one side showing the dusty car park, and the other side showing Max the monkey and Bea the bee enjoying the lush, green sanctuary.



Extension challenge: What might happen if the town council decided to create a 'hybrid' space that includes both a small car park and a vertical garden? Write a short persuasive pitch to explain why this compromise might be the most effective solution.