

Max's Mighty Debate Challenge

Learning objective: To identify the features, structure, and formal language required for a balanced discussion text.

Help Max the monkey solve these linguistic puzzles! Read the questions carefully and select the best answer. Remember to use formal, persuasive vocabulary.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.B, 5.Viewpoint, 6.A, 7.True, 8.Formal, 9.Conjunctions, 10.Conclusion. Discussion texts must remain neutral and present both sides before summarising.

Word bank: balanced · viewpoint · conjunctions · formal · counter-argument · evidence · objective · conclusion

1. Which of these is a key feature of a discussion text? A) Writing in the first person B) Using informal slang C) Presenting a balanced argument* D) Telling a funny story (1 mark)

2. True or False: A discussion text should present both the advantages and disadvantages of a topic. (True/False) (1 mark)

3. True or False: You should include your own personal feelings using phrases like 'I think' or 'I love'. (True/False) (1 mark)

4. What is the main purpose of a 'counter-argument' in a discussion? A) To win the argument B) To show the opposing view* C) To ignore the facts D) To introduce a new topic (1 mark)

5. What is the term for a specific way of thinking about or looking at a topic? (1 mark)

6. Which phrase is most appropriate for a formal discussion? A) 'On the other hand'* B) 'Like, seriously' C) 'I reckon that' D) 'Whatever you say' (1 mark)

7. True or False: The conclusion should summarise the main points discussed throughout the text. (True/False) (1 mark)

8. Should the tone of a discussion text be informal or formal? (1 mark)

9. 9. What do you call words like 'however', 'furthermore', and 'consequently' that help link your ideas? (1 mark)

10. 10. In which paragraph do you usually provide your final summary of the arguments? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scale or a set of balance scales. On one side, draw a symbol representing 'Pros', and on the other side, a symbol for 'Cons'. Label them with formal vocabulary.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why it is vital to remain neutral during the main body paragraphs. 2. Compare and contrast a 'persuasive' text with a 'discussion' text. 3. Justify why formal language is preferred over informal language in academic debates. 4. What might happen if a writer omits a counter-argument? 5. Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) discussing whether school uniforms should be compulsory, ensuring you include at least two contrasting viewpoints. 6. Evaluate the effectiveness of using 'Furthermore' versus 'However' when transitioning between arguments.