

Max's Great Debate Planner: Exploring Two Sides of a Story

Learning objective: To structure a balanced discussion text by presenting formal arguments for and against a specific statement, using cohesive devices and objective language.

Max the monkey loves to solve puzzles, and he believes that every complex issue has at least two sides! Use this template to organise your thoughts before writing a formal discussion text. Remember to remain neutral, use formal vocabulary, and ensure your arguments are supported by evidence or logical reasoning.

Word bank: Furthermore · Conversely · In contrast · Consequently · Persuasive · Impartial · Evidence · Arguments · Proponents · Opponents · Neutral · Significantly

1. The Debate Statement: Clearly define the topic you are discussing (e.g., 'Should school days be extended?') and explain why this is a subject of current debate. (2 marks)

2. Arguments For: Outline two or three logical points that support the statement. Include evidence or examples to justify your reasoning. (3 marks)

3. Arguments Against: Outline two or three logical points that challenge the statement. Explain why some people might disagree with the initial proposal. (3 marks)

4. Comparison of Viewpoints: Compare and contrast the two sides. Which arguments appear the most compelling and why? (4 marks)

5. The Balanced Conclusion: Summarise the main points discussed. Without stating your personal preference, provide a balanced concluding thought on the future of this topic. (3 marks)

6. Higher-Order Reflection: Explain why it is important for a writer to remain impartial when presenting a formal discussion text. What might happen if the author's personal bias heavily influenced the writing? (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Imagine you are writing this debate for a national newspaper. Write a 'Letter to the Editor' justifying why your chosen topic is currently the most significant issue for Year 5 students to consider. Use at least three examples of modal verbs (e.g., should, might, could) to speculate on the potential consequences of the issue.