

The Great Forest Assembly: Crafting Persuasive Speeches

Learning objective: To compose a persuasive speech using rhetorical devices, emotive language, and formal tone suitable for a Year 5 audience.

Max the monkey is organising a campaign to improve the forest playground. He needs your help to write a persuasive speech. Use the rhetorical devices from the word bank to fill in the gaps in Max's draft, then complete the analytical questions to refine your writing skills.

Max's Speech Draft: '(1)_____ friends of the forest, have you ever looked at our playground and felt sad? (2)_____, our equipment is crumbling, rusted, and dangerous. We must act now! Imagine a world where we can play safely under the sun. (3)_____ donate your spare acorns to the playground fund today! Every penny counts—even a donation of £2.50 makes a difference. (4)_____ (to the audience), do you really want our children to suffer on these broken swings? (5)_____—it is the worst playground in the entire history of the world! Let us build, climb, and laugh together.'

Word bank: Rhetorical question · Emotive language · Rule of three · Imperative verb · Exaggeration · Direct address

1. Identify which rhetorical device was used in each of the five numbered blanks in Max's speech. (5 marks)

2. Explain why Max chose to use the 'Rule of Three' when describing the playground equipment. How does this affect the audience? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the effect of using a 'Rhetorical Question' versus an 'Imperative Verb' in a persuasive speech. Which is more effective for gaining support? (4 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Is Max's use of 'exaggeration' (calling it the worst playground in history) a helpful persuasive tool, or does it undermine his argument? Give a reason. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if Max removed all emotive language from his speech? How would the tone of his delivery change? (3 marks)

6. Rewrite one sentence from the passage to make it sound more formal for a town council meeting. (2 marks)

Draw: Sketch a vibrant, modern playground design that Max might present to the council, including labels for the new equipment and their individual costs in £.



Extension challenge: Write a short rebuttal speech from the perspective of a grumpy badger who thinks the forest is fine the way it is. You must use at least two rhetorical questions and one piece of emotive language.