

Year 5 English Assessment: The Power of Persuasive Speech

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of speech writing techniques, persuasive language, and rhetorical devices suitable for a formal audience.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of formal tone, persuasive devices, and audience engagement to answer. Ensure your spelling, punctuation, and grammar are accurate.

Max the monkey is preparing to give a speech to the Forest Council. He wants to convince the other animals to build a new community library in the heart of the Great Oak. Max needs to ensure his language is persuasive, articulate, and inspiring. He knows that using specific rhetorical devices will help him win the support of the council members.

Word bank: Rhetorical question · Emotive language · Modal verbs · Rule of three · Direct address · Formal register · Persuasive · Conjunctions

1. Identify two examples of emotive language Max might use to describe the importance of books to the Forest Council. Explain why these words are effective. (2 marks)

2. Write a sentence using the 'rule of three' that Max could use to describe the benefits of the new library. (2 marks)

3. What is a rhetorical question? Explain how Max could use one to engage his audience at the start of his speech. (3 marks)

4. Explain why 'direct address' (using words like 'you' or 'we') is a vital technique in speech writing. How does it change the relationship between the speaker and the audience? (4 marks)

5. Max is worried about the cost of the project (£500 for materials). Write a short, persuasive paragraph (3-4 sentences) justifying the investment. Use at least one modal verb (e.g., must, should, could) to show necessity. (4 marks)

6. Compare and contrast the language you would use in a speech to your headteacher versus a speech to your friends. Provide one example for each. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Write an opening paragraph (approximately 50-70 words) for Max's speech. You must include a formal greeting, a rhetorical question, and a clear statement of intent regarding the new library. (7 marks)

Draw: Sketch a scene of Max the monkey standing at a wooden podium in the Great Oak, holding his notes and looking confident as he addresses the Forest Council.



Extension challenge: Justify your answer: If the Forest Council rejected Max's proposal, what might happen to the future of the younger animals in the forest? Write a creative response explaining the long-term impact. Total: /25