Mastering the Art of Debate with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To identify and apply rhetorical devices and persuasive techniques suitable for Year 6 formal debates.

Read the tips from Kit the Fox and answer the 10 questions below to test your debating skills!

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Emotive Language, 5.B, 6.True, 7.A, 8.False, 9.The Rule of Three, 10.B. Kit's Top Tip: Always remember to stay calm and respectful when listening to the other side!

Word bank: Rhetorical Question · Emotive Language · Rule of Three · Evidence · Counter-argument · Formal · Persuade · Tone

1. 1. Which of these is a 'rhetorical question' used to make an audience think? A) Why is the sky blue? B) What time is it? C) How long must we wait for justice? D) Do you like apples? (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Using 'The Rule of Three' (e.g., 'we must be brave, bold, and brilliant') helps make your argument more memorable. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: It is a good idea to use slang and informal language in a formal school debate. (1 mark)

4. 4. What do we call words like 'devastating', 'courageous', or 'miraculous' that are used to stir up feelings? (One word answer) (1 mark)

5. 5. Why should you include a 'counter-argument' in your speech? A) To confuse your opponent. B) To show you have considered other viewpoints. C) To make your speech longer. D) To avoid writing a conclusion. (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: Evidence and statistics help make your persuasive argument sound more reliable and factual. (1 mark)

7. 7. Which opening is best for a formal debate? A) 'Honourable judges and guests, today I argue that...' B) 'Hey everyone, check this out...' C) 'I think maybe we should...' D) 'I'm going to tell you stuff.' (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: You should always shout at your opponent to make sure your point is heard. (1 mark)

9. 9. Identify the technique in this sentence: 'Our plan is cleaner, safer, and faster.' (1 mark)

10. 10. Which is a good way to conclude a debate speech? A) 'Okay, I'm done now.' B) 'In summary, the evidence shows that we must act now for a better future.' C) 'Anyway, does anyone have any crisps?' D) 'I forgot what I was saying.' (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Kit the Fox standing at a wooden podium, holding a scroll, wearing a smart bowtie and glasses, ready to deliver a brilliant speech.

Extension challenge: Choose a topic like 'Should every student learn to play an instrument?' and write one paragraph using at least one rhetorical question and one example of the rule of three.