Mastering Discussion Texts with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To understand the structural and linguistic features of a formal discussion text, as per Year 6 English curriculum requirements.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of discussion writing. Max the monkey can help you with the logical structure, while Pip the caterpillar can help you with the vocabulary!

What is the primary purpose of a discussion text?

To present a balanced view on a complex issue by exploring different perspectives before reaching a conclusion.

Which linguistic feature is used to show possibility or necessity, such as 'might', 'could', or 'should'?

Modal verbs.

What should the introduction of a discussion text contain?

A clear statement of the topic and an outline of the different sides of the argument.

Why must a discussion text remain impartial?

To ensure the reader receives a fair and unbiased overview of the topic without being persuaded by the writer's personal opinion.

What is a 'counter-argument'?

An argument or set of reasons put forward to oppose an idea or theory developed in the text.

Name three examples of formal cohesive devices used to link arguments.

Furthermore, however, consequently, in contrast, or on the other hand.

What type of tone should be maintained throughout a discussion text?

A formal and objective tone.

True or False: A conclusion in a discussion text should introduce brand new arguments.

False. The conclusion should summarise the main points and provide a final perspective based on the evidence presented.

Why are statistics or expert opinions important in a discussion text?

They provide evidence to support the different viewpoints being discussed.

What are 'causal conjunctions'?

Words used to link ideas by showing cause and effect, such as 'because', 'therefore', or 'as a result'.

What is the main difference between a discussion text and a persuasive text?

A persuasive text argues for only one side of an issue, whereas a discussion text explores multiple viewpoints.

What is the role of a paragraph break in a discussion text?

To clearly separate different arguments, evidence, and viewpoints to help the reader follow the structure.