Max’s Discussion Debate Challenge

Learning objective: To identify the features, structure, and formal language used in balanced discussion texts.

Read the questions carefully and help Max the monkey decide which features belong in a formal discussion text. Some questions are multiple choice, while others require a quick word or sentence.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.A, 5.However, 6.False, 7.Formal, 8.B, 9.True, 10.Balanced. (Teacher Note: Discussion texts explore multiple perspectives on a topic without bias).

Word bank: Balanced · Formal · Conjunctions · Arguments · Neutral · Viewpoints · Conclusion

1. 1. What is the primary purpose of a discussion text? A) To tell a story about a dragon, B) To persuade the reader to agree with you, C) To present balanced points for and against a topic*, D) To explain how to bake a cake. (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A discussion text should avoid using emotive or biased language to remain objective. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: It is essential to include your own personal feelings (e.g., 'I think') throughout every paragraph. (1 mark)

4. 4. Which of these is a suitable opening for a discussion text? A) 'There has been much debate regarding the use of technology in schools.*', B) 'Everyone knows that technology is the best thing ever!', C) 'Once upon a time, a computer lived in a cave.', D) 'Buy a new laptop today!' (1 mark)

5. 5. Which word is an example of a contrasting conjunction used to introduce a different viewpoint? (Hint: Starts with H) (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: You should only write about the arguments that support your own opinion. (1 mark)

7. 7. Should the tone of a discussion text be informal (chatty) or formal (professional)? (1 mark)

8. 8. Where should you summarise the main points and provide a final perspective? A) The introduction, B) The conclusion*, C) The middle of the first paragraph, D) The title. (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: Discussion texts often use the third person (e.g., 'some people argue', 'it is believed'). (1 mark)

10. 10. Fill in the blank: A good discussion text provides a _____ view of the subject. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey holding a sign that says 'Pro' in one hand and 'Con' in the other, standing in front of a giant balance scale.

Extension challenge: Choose a topic like 'Should school uniforms be mandatory?' and write a single, balanced paragraph using at least one 'for' point and one 'against' point using formal language.