Grade 5 Assessment: The Art of Persuasion

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of rhetoric, formal debate structure, and persuasive writing techniques.

Read each question carefully. Use formal, persuasive language for your written responses. Ensure you use the provided word bank to support your answers where appropriate.

Max the monkey is preparing for the Great Forest Debate. The topic is: 'Should the forest switch to a solar-powered lighting system to replace traditional lanterns?' Max wants to use powerful language to convince the other animals. He plans to use facts, personal anecdotes, and rhetorical flourishes to ensure his message is heard clearly by every creature in the canopy.

Word bank: rhetorical question · emotive language · modal verbs · counter-argument · rebuttal · assertion · tripartite · evidence

1. Define the term 'rhetorical question' and explain why a speaker might use one during a debate. (2 marks)

2. Identify two examples of 'emotive language' that could be used in a speech about protecting the forest environment. Explain why these words are effective. (3 marks)

3. What is a 'rebuttal' in a formal debate, and why is it essential for a successful argument? (3 marks)

4. Rewrite the following assertion to include a modal verb and a sense of urgency: 'We need to recycle more plastic.' (2 marks)

5. Max is arguing that the forest should move to solar lighting. Write a 'tripartite' (rule of three) phrase he could use to persuade the animals. (2 marks)

6. Explain the difference between a 'fact' and an 'opinion' in the context of a debate. Which one is generally considered more persuasive to a skeptical audience and why? (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Write a short, persuasive opening statement (approx. 100 words) for the motion: 'All children should learn to grow their own food at school.' Use at least one rhetorical question, one modal verb, and one piece of emotive language. (9 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of Max the monkey standing at a wooden podium in the forest, holding a clipboard, looking ready to deliver a passionate speech to a group of attentive animals.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research one historical figure known for their speeches (e.g., Emmeline Pankhurst or Winston Churchill). List one rhetorical technique they used and explain the impact it had on their audience.