Debate and Rhetoric: The Argument Planner

Learning objective: To structure a persuasive argument using rhetorical devices and evidence to support a viewpoint.

Use this template to help Kit the fox prepare for the Great Forest Debate. Follow the sections to build a strong argument, ensuring you use a mix of facts and emotive language to convince your audience.

Word bank: persuasive · rhetorical question · emotive language · evidence · concession · counter-argument · modal verbs · triplet · alliteration

1. The Motion: State the topic you are debating and clearly identify whether you are arguing for or against the motion. (2 marks)

2. Opening Rhetorical Question: Write a question that will hook your audience and make them think about the issue immediately. (2 marks)

3. Key Arguments: List two strong points to support your side. Include one piece of evidence or a statistic for each point. (4 marks)

4. The Counter-Argument: Acknowledge the other side's point of view briefly, then explain why your argument is stronger. (3 marks)

5. The 'Rule of Three' (Triplet): Write a powerful sentence using a list of three adjectives or phrases to emphasise your final message. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Write a short paragraph of your speech using an 'emotive language' technique to make your audience feel deeply about your chosen topic. Try to include at least one modal verb (e.g., must, should, could) to show how certain you are.