Mastering the Art of Debate: A Persuasive Writing Scaffold

Learning objective: To structure a persuasive argument using rhetorical devices, cohesive devices, and formal language appropriate for Grade 5.

Use this scaffold to build your argument for a debate. Remember to use formal language, include rhetorical questions to engage your audience, and provide evidence to support your claims. Follow the structure below to ensure your argument is balanced and convincing.

It is a widely held belief that our school environment should be a place of constant innovation, but have we truly considered the impact of implementing a four-day school week?

Word bank: Furthermore · Consequently · In light of this · Undoubtedly · However · Conversely · It is essential to consider · Without a shadow of a doubt · For instance · On the contrary

1. Introduction: State your position clearly. Start with: 'It is my firm belief that...' or 'There has been much debate regarding...' (2 marks)

2. Point One: Present your strongest argument. Start with: 'Firstly, it is undeniable that...' or 'The most compelling reason for this is...' (2 marks)

3. Point Two: Present your second argument using a rhetorical question to engage the audience. Start with: 'Furthermore, one must ask: is it not true that...?' or 'Consider the fact that...' (2 marks)

4. Counter-argument: Acknowledge the opposing view before dismissing it. Start with: 'While some may argue that..., this viewpoint fails to account for...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise your main points and deliver a final, powerful statement. Start with: 'In conclusion, it is evident that...' or 'Ultimately, the evidence suggests that...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Choose one of your arguments and rewrite it using a 'rule of three' (a list of three adjectives or phrases) to emphasise your point for your audience, just like Leo the Lion would do when preparing a speech!