Persuasive Oratory: The Great School Debate

Learning objective: To identify and apply the features of persuasive speech writing, including rhetorical devices, emotive language, and formal tone.

Leo the Lion is preparing a speech to persuade the school council to build a new nature garden. Use the word bank to fill in the blanks in Leo's draft. Then, read the statements below and circle 'True' or 'False', providing a reason for your choice based on Grade 5 writing techniques.

Word bank: rhetorical · emotive · alliteration · modal verbs · first-person plural · repetition

1. 1. Leo's speech draft: 'We must act now! Imagine a garden where buzzing bees and beautiful blossoms thrive. Surely, we owe it to our environment to create this space? We will work together to make this vision a reality.' Fill in the blanks: The phrase 'buzzing bees and beautiful blossoms' is an example of _____, while the use of 'we' throughout the text creates a sense of _____. (2 marks)

2. 2. True or False: Using a question like 'Don't you want a greener school?' is an example of a rhetorical question. Explain why this is effective in a persuasive speech. (2 marks)

3. 3. True or False: A formal speech should always include slang or abbreviations like 'gonna' or 'wanna' to sound more friendly to the audience. (2 marks)

4. 4. Identify which word from the bank describes the use of words like 'must', 'should', and 'will' to express the necessity of the project. (1 mark)

5. 5. Think of an emotive adjective to describe the current state of a neglected playground to help persuade the council to fix it. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a poster for Leo the Lion's nature garden campaign. Include one 'hook' sentence at the top that uses a rhetorical question to grab the reader's attention.

Extension challenge: Write a short introductory paragraph (4-6 lines) for your own speech about a topic you are passionate about. Try to include one example of a rhetorical question and one example of a modal verb.