

Discursive writing activities to prepare for a rap battle



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Please make sure you have also downloaded the ‘Stage Your Own Word War’ resource by Peter Kelly, to see exactly how to run a rap battle in your class. This resource is designed to work alongside Peter’s.

Task two – carouselling

CfE

Your next task is to jot down some ideas about each topic. Your teacher will put you in groups and give out A3 paper. Each group will write down a different discursive topic (Using the ones on the previous page). The discursive topics will carousel around the class at the same time. Your job is to write down an argument for and against that specific topic. You will have approximately four minutes; after that the A3 paper will be passed to another group. By the end of the task the A3 sheets should be filled with strong arguments for and against. Each group will have had an opportunity to contribute their ideas.

Lit 3-05a
Lit 3-02a
Lit 3-09a
HWB 3-01a
HWB 3-14a

EXAMPLE A3 SHEET:

TV talent shows do more harm than good.

Agree

Disagree

Task three – modelling

CfE

You are going to model a topic, as a class, to give you some idea of how to develop your arguments and use certain persuasive writing techniques.

The topic is: Libraries are outdated

Lit 3-05a
Lit 3-02a
Lit 3-09a
HWB 3-01a
HWB 3-14a

Step One: Look at the following arguments:

Libraries are outdated

Agree

People are using eBooks and devices such as Kindles these days to read. So there will be no place for paper books in the future. Electronic books are the way forward.

The majority of the population don't use libraries the way they used to. People needed access to books and Encyclopaedias to find out facts. Now we have the Internet at home and in schools so we don't need to go to the library.

Libraries are expensive to run and in this climate of economic difficulty libraries are a luxury we cannot afford.

Disagree

Libraries are important places in our communities. People from all different groups use libraries from time to time. They foster a love of reading in children through schemes like 'Rhyme Time' and 'Bookbug'. Young adults can find a quiet place to study. Older people can meet friends and relax reading the papers.

Libraries are moving with the times. They have modernised and allow access to ICT which is vital for people in our community who don't have access at home.

Libraries are still valuable places where you can find out local information. It's easier to drop in at your local library to find out about what's happening in your local community.

Step Two: See if you can add some points of your own to the list above.

Task four – persuasive techniques

Now you are going to learn some persuasive techniques that you can use when you're constructing your rap. Your teacher will talk to you about these techniques and demonstrate how to use them.

RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

This is a particular kind of question that doesn't require a response from the reader/listener. It engages the reader quickly because, as readers/listeners we like to feel involved. It is a persuasive technique that allows the reader/listener to ask themselves and think more personally about the topic.

For example, how would you feel if you had to pay more taxes to fund a local library that few people use these days? Immediately, we feel engaged as we are being asked about our/or our parent's money and how it should be spent. It really makes us think.

See if you can write one rhetorical question on the topic 'Libraries are outdated.'

EMOTIVE LANGUAGE

This is when words are used to make the reader feel a certain emotion, like sadness or anger. For example, If local Libraries were closed young children would not have anywhere to go and explore books these magical places would be gone forever.

See if you can write using emotive language on the topic 'Libraries are outdated.'

USE OF EXAGGERATION

When information is given that is over the top, or slightly untrue.

For example, No-one my age has any interest in libraries these days! This is clearly not quite true. However, the point has been made that most teens do feel disengaged when it comes to their local library.

REPETITION

This is when Words or phrases are repeated so that they stick in the reader's mind.

For example, If we take the decision that libraries are outdated are should close then they will be gone, gone forever.

See if you can use repetition on the topic 'Libraries are outdated.'

THE “RULE OF THREE”

In all areas of life we can see the rule of three working. This is because things presented to us in clusters of three seem to stick in our minds better. Comedians, politicians and advertisers use clusters of three: Here are some examples:

“Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”

“Stop, Look and Listen”

“So fluffy, so creamy, so chocolaty” Milky Way

In Barack Obama’s speeches he frequently makes use of the rule of three, in order to persuade his readers:

“We have to be able to out-build, out-educate and out-innovate every other country on earth.”

Can you use the rule of three on the topic ‘Libraries are outdated’?

ALLITERATION

Repeating the consonant sounds at the beginning of words to make them stand out. For example, everybody loves their local library.

See if you can use alliteration relating to the topic ‘Libraries are outdated.’

Task five – discursive essay

(To be undertaken once the Rap Battle or Word War has taken place.)

Now that your Rap Battle is over it's time to formulate your ideas into an extended piece of writing. You can either write a persuasive piece or a discursive piece. You can choose any of the topics discussed in class. Depending on where you stand on your chosen topic your teacher will advise you on whether you should write a discursive or persuasive essay.

Below are two very simplified structures that are to help guide you.

Discursive

Introduction – Question

For

For

For

Against

Against

Against

Conclusion – Answer

Persuasive

Introduction – Question

Argument

Argument

Argument

Argument

Argument

Argument

Conclusion – Answer

Once you have chosen your topic and constructed your various arguments you may wish, with your teacher's permission, to use the library to source facts and statistics to make your essay even more persuasive.

CfE Outcomes

- I can recognise persuasion and I am learning about its techniques
- I can do discursive writing, with a clear line of thought
- I can do persuasive writing
- I can get across information, ideas and opinions in a talk or discussion