

Rhetorical Questions



A rhetorical question is a question that is asked, but there is no need for a reply. For example: Who doesn't like chocolate?

1. Decide whether these questions are rhetorical (R) or non-rhetorical (N).
 - a. What is the difference between a rabbit and a hare? R/N
 - b. Do I look like I was born yesterday? R/N
 - c. How would you feel if your house was full of rubbish? R/N
 - d. Do we have school tomorrow? R/N
 - e. Wouldn't you feel horrible if you didn't give that dog a home? R/N

2. Write your own rhetorical questions about these school issues. Imagine you are trying to engage your audience.

Issue	Rhetorical Question
The school playground is always untidy.	
You have heard lots of children are wasting water.	
Children are not wearing a helmet when they ride their bikes.	
Some children think it is silly having to wear their hats at play time.	

Emotive Language



Emotive language is used to make the reader feel certain emotions, such as sadness, excitement or happiness.

1. Underline the emotive language in these sentences. Then write the emotion that you feel.

Think of the poor helpless animals that are suffering because of our rubbish.	
The puppy pounced and jumped joyfully when a lady decided to take him home from the pound.	
Think about all the exhausted children who must suffer through the horrible task of homework.	
Dogs are loyal, affectionate and active companions. No other choice of pet can compete with a dog.	

2. Rewrite these sentences, adding in some emotive words.

a. The boy ran away from the dog.

b. The chickens are stuck in small cages their whole life.

Personal Pronouns



Personal pronouns are words such as: you, our, we and us. Pronouns are used to make the reader feel like we are talking to them.

1. Reword these sentences, adding pronouns to make them more persuasive.

a) Rubbish should go in the bin.

b) School uniforms look smart.

c) Fruit and vegetables are healthy foods.

Modality Words



Modality words are used to indicate the degree to which something is certain or likely to happen. High modality words are more persuasive.

1. Read the following sentences. Write (H) in the box for high modality words and (L) in the box for low modality words.

- a. I might go swimming on the weekend.
- b. Dad says he might take us to the beach one day.
- c. We must leave before it gets too dark.
- d. To improve your health, you must eat fruit and vegetables.
- e. You must remember to bring your homework home.

Modality Words Sorting Task

Cut and paste the modality words under the correct headings.

Low Modality	High Modality

may	certain
will	might
could	has to
must	would
sometimes	might not
never	absolutely

Finding Persuasive Devices

Find and underline these persuasive language devices:

- rhetorical question (green)
- connecting words (red)
- modality words (yellow).

Don't students deserve to unwind and relax after a long day at school? Students already spend a great deal of their lives doing school work. It is not fair that students must spend extra time at home on tasks that could be done during school hours.

Firstly, students need a break from school work when they come home. They should be allowed to unwind by playing with friends, spending time with the family and just relaxing.

Secondly, students should have the time to participate in other activities after school that are also educational. Playing sport, learning a musical instrument or joining a community group are just a few ways that students could be learning new skills... if they didn't have to do homework!

Thirdly, all families are different. Some students might need to help out after school and may genuinely not have time to do their homework.

In conclusion, schools should not be sending homework. There are much better ways that students could be using this time after school, such as relaxing, learning new skills and helping their families.



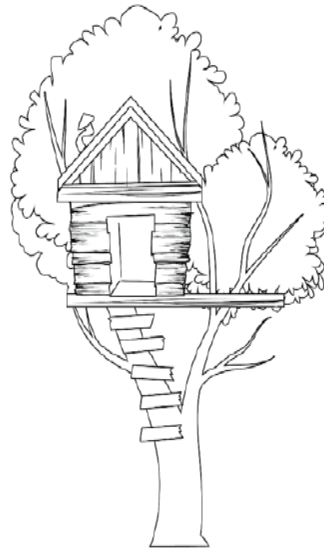
Persuasive Language - Treehouse

Imagine you are trying to convince your parents that it is a good idea that you live in a treehouse in the back yard. Use some of the persuasive language devices to come up with some sentences for each box.

Rhetorical Question:

Opinion:

Emotive Language:



Alliteration:
