

LESSON 5



U: TO WRITE A DISCUSSION TEXT.

National Curriculum Links

Writing

Pupils should be taught to draft and write by:

- selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning
- using a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs
- using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader

SPAG:

- Use modal verbs or adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility

STARTER:

Show children a selection of different words, some modal verbs and some adverbs of possibility. Ask them to sort them into two lists.

possibly must perhaps can should surely

MAIN TEACHING:

Before the lesson, type up one child's discussion text plan onto the interactive whiteboard so it is visible to all.

Go through the structure of a discussion text with reference to the plan:

- Introduction of the issue
- For argument
- Against argument
- For argument
- Against argument
- For argument
- Against argument
- Conclusion – what does the author think?

Now discuss the language features of a discussion text:

- Words and phrases to link ideas between paragraphs
- Uncountable noun phrases (e.g. some people, most people)

- Adverbs of possibility (e.g. perhaps, surely)
- Modal verbs to show possibility (e.g. would, should, can)

Model using the plan on the interactive whiteboard to write the title and the first paragraph (introduction). Children then work with their talk partner to write their own introduction.

Once the children have written their introduction, model writing the next two paragraphs, asking the children to help you once you have written the first sentence. Explicitly model linking back to the first **for** argument in the first **against** paragraph.

See below for an example of the modelled writing:

Should Juliet Obey her Parents?

The idea that children should obey their parents goes back to biblical times. However, children often find it difficult to follow the wishes of their parents as demonstrated throughout history. The issue of whether Juliet should obey her parents has strong arguments on both sides which will be explored in more detail in this discussion text.

Firstly, many would argue that Juliet should obey her parents out of respect. It is important that young people show respect for their elders by obeying their wishes and trusting that they know what is best for them

However, others would suggest that Juliet is unable to respect her parents' wishes because she is already married to Romeo. Therefore she should not obey her parents because to do so would mean breaking the law and her marriage vows to Romeo.

Children then complete the rest of the discussion text, using their plan to help them.

EDITING

When the children have finished writing, ask them to read through their work and look for parts that do not make sense, missing punctuation and misspelt words.