

Persuading the Park Council: Save the Old Oak Tree

Learning objective: To identify and use persuasive techniques such as emotive language, rhetorical questions, and modal verbs.

Read the letter written by Leo the Lion to the local council. Identify the persuasive language he has used to save the ancient oak tree in the village park. Then, write a short paragraph of your own to support his cause.

Dear Members of the Council, I am writing to you today regarding the magnificent, ancient oak tree in the centre of our village park. Did you know that this tree provides a home for hundreds of birds and insects? It is not just a plant; it is the heart of our community. If you choose to cut it down, it would be a devastating loss for every child who plays in its shade. Surely, we must safeguard our history for the next generation? We have an opportunity to show that we value nature. I urge you to reconsider your plans and keep our beautiful tree standing tall.

Word bank: undoubtedly · essential · magnificent · devastating · opportunity · safeguard · irreplaceable

1. Find and copy one rhetorical question from the letter. Why do you think Leo included it? (2 marks)

2. Identify two adjectives Leo uses to describe the oak tree. How do these words make the reader feel about the tree? (2 marks)

3. Which modal verb does Leo use to show that he feels very strongly about saving the tree? (1 mark)

4. Why does Leo mention the birds and insects that live in the tree? How does this persuade the reader? (2 marks)

5. Write a persuasive sentence of your own, using at least one word from the word bank, to convince the council that the park needs more flowers. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster to go with Leo's letter. Include a bold slogan at the top to grab people's attention and a colourful picture of the ancient oak tree.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a member of the council. Write a short reply to Leo. Will you agree to save the tree, or do you have a different plan? Use at least two pieces of persuasive language in your reply.