

Section 2: Developing writing

Activity 9: Zoos – good or bad?

Objective

In non-narrative, establish, balance and maintain viewpoints (Year 6 Strand 9).

What's on the CD-ROM

Zoos – good or bad?

- Drag and drop the four illustrations into the correct column.
- Compose an argument for or against keeping animals in zoos.

What to do

This activity explores viewpoints about zoos. The illustrations are a stimulus to develop spoken and written arguments.

- Discuss if it is right to keep animals in zoos, listing arguments on the board. Arguments 'For' might be that they are educational and that they preserve endangered species; arguments 'Against' might be that zoos are unnatural environments and animals may suffer in captivity.
- Display the illustrations. Which illustrations might be used as evidence for and against zoos? Ask the children to categorise each illustration.
- Working in pairs or small groups, tell the children to choose a viewpoint for or against zoos. They should prepare a talk using arguments suggested by the pictures and researching other arguments and related facts. Remind them to use all the persuasive features they have learned. Display the Poster (on the wall or on the board) as a reminder.
- If you wish, the children could select and import one illustration along with their main points onto screen 2 and use this screen when they give their talk.
- Let the groups give their speeches. Then take a class vote.
- Photocopiable page 33 can be used to help them present their arguments in a written format – perhaps as a transcript of the speech, or a letter to a newspaper.

Activity 10: Now hear this!

Objective

To make notes on and use evidence from across a text to explain events or ideas (Year 5 Strand 7).

What's on the CD-ROM

Media resources

- Listen to and analyse the audio clip.

What to do

In this activity, the children listen to and analyse a short speech, identifying the point of view and commenting on the speech.

- Explain that you want the children to listen very carefully to the audio clip you are going to play. Give each child photocopiable page 34 and explain that the first time you play the clip, you want them to make notes about what the speaker's point of view is, and how they know.
- Let the children listen to the audio file and make notes. Discuss the speaker's attitude and how the children identified it.
- Play the file again. This time, ask the children to listen for examples of persuasive language, and make notes again.
- Play the recording a final time, and ask the children to make notes of examples where the speaker is not so persuasive.
- Ask the children to write or audio-record an improved version of this speech, or incorporate ideas from it into their own speeches from Activity 9.