

12 Angry Men: A lesson using a video clip

Getting the gist:

1. You are going to watch a clip from a film. The sound will be off. Look at the questions below and try to answer them.
 - When is the film set? (How do you know)
 - Where are they?
 - What are they doing and what is happening?



2. Now watch again with the sound on. Would you alter any of the answers from question 1?
3. Watch the clip again and see if you can answer the following questions.
 - Who has been accused and of what?
 - What is the speaker's attitude towards the case?
 - What do the rest of the juror's think about what he is saying?
 - How does the speaker react when he is told to stop talking?

Natural response:

Read the quote below and then answer the questions

I don't understand you people. I mean, all these picky little points you keep bringing up, they don't mean nothing. You saw this kid, just like I did. You're not going to tell me you believe that phony story about losing the knife and that business about being at the movies. Look, you know how these people lie. It's born in them. I mean, what the heck, I don't have to tell you. They don't know what the truth is. And let me tell you, they don't need any real big reason to kill someone either, no sir. They get drunk, oh they're real big drinkers all of them, you know that, and bang, someone's lying in the gutter. Nobodies blaming them for it, that's the way they are by nature. You know what I mean? Violent.

1. Is there any language here which is used to generalise a group of people?
2. Why might that be a problem in a trial?
3. Do you think the speaker is racist?

Persuasive language

1. There are lots of ways of trying to persuade people that you are right. Look at the table below and match the techniques to the examples

Technique	Example
1. Flattery - complimenting your audience.	a) 80% of people agreed that this would change their community for the better.
2. Opinion - a personal viewpoint often presented as if fact.	b) You are the key to this entire idea succeeding - we will be with you all the way. I can't thank you enough!
3. Hyperbole - exaggerated language used for effect.	c) Who doesn't want success?
4. Personal pronouns - 'I', 'you' and 'we'.	d) It is simply out of this world – stunning!
5. Imperative command - instructional language.	e) There are thousands of animals at the mercy of our selfishness and disregard for kindness.
6. Triples - three points to support an argument.	f) In my view, this is the best thing to have ever happened.
7. Emotive language - vocabulary to make the audience/reader feel a particular emotion.	g) Safer streets means comfort, reassurance and peace of mind for you, your family and your friends.
8. Statistics and figures - factual data used in a persuasive way.	h) A person of your intelligence deserves much better than this.
9. Rhetorical question - a question which implies its own answer.	i) Get on board and join us!

Adapted from BBC Bitesize Literary techniques: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zx7cmnb/revision/2>

Reread the quote from the film.

2. Can you identify any of the techniques above in the quote?

Responding and debating: the rebuttal

In the film the actor replies to the speech by calmly saying:

“Now sit down, and don't open your mouth again”

Whilst this works in the context of the film, it doesn't really address any of the points the speaker has made.

On the next page, you are going to plan your response.

Look at the two ways to respond below.

Concession

Where to defuse the discussion, you accept part of an argument, or pretend you do, before moving on.

"I see what you mean, but ...

While you have a point here, what about, ...

Refutation

Where you seek to demonstrate a statement or theory to be wrong or false.

There is no proof of this, in fact ...

All of the evidence suggests that ..., so what you said was

1. What do you think are the advantages or disadvantages of both?

Your response

You are going to plan and then give a 30 second response to the speech from the clip.

Think about how you could write a response to the speech above.

1. Think about any particular parts of the original quote you want to highlight in your response. Is there any evidence you could use?
2. Choose one of the two responses from above to use at the beginning.
3. Select at least 4 of the persuasive techniques.
4. Plan what you intend to say. Use the space below to take notes.

