English - Debating Skills

Are you for or against? How can you change someone's opinion?

Year 7-9

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the session:

- **All students** will understand the basic structure of a debate and start to use different techniques to construct an argument.
- **Most students** will understand the importance of information and how emotions can affect opinions.
- **Some students** will start to learn how to separate emotion from fact to form a balanced argument.

Session Outline:

The session starts with explaining what a debate is and how to construct a debate, covering terminology and techniques and how they are used. The session then looks at example statements and students are asked if they agree or disagree. This exercise shows how important information and emotions are when debating. The talk then covers the pro side of zoos, first looking at the history of zoos and how they changed, leading to the work zoos do in the 21st century, including the conservation work zoos are involved with, as well as the education and research work zoos conduct. The students are then given worksheets, with pros and cons for zoos to complete as they go around the zoo. The class teacher is also given an information pack with articles for and against zoos to give both sides of the argument, as well as follow up activities to be done back at school which can culminated in a class debate.

Please note, no live animals are used in this session.