YEAR 8 READING

Persuasive Techniques

Identify and explain how writers try to persuade readers

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Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Score:** _____ / 10

Letter to the Editor: Save Our Skate Park

Dear Editor,

How would you feel if the one place your kids loved was bulldozed for a car park? That is exactly what the council plans to do to the Riverside Skate Park.

Every afternoon, more than 60 young people use this park. It keeps them active, outdoors and off their screens. Dr Helen Marsh, a youth health researcher, says 'safe public spaces for teenagers reduce anti-social behaviour and improve mental health'.

My own son was a shy kid who struggled to make friends. At Riverside, he found a community. Older skaters taught him tricks and looked out for him. He is now confident and happy.

Losing this park would be a heartbreaking blow to our young people. We all want a town that cares about its future. Let's show the council that we won't stay silent.

Come to the council meeting on Tuesday night. Our kids are counting on us.

Jo Patel, Riverside

Name the technique used in each quote.

1. 'How would you feel if the one place your kids loved was bulldozed...'
   (a) rhetorical question (b) emotive language (c) statistics (d) expert opinion
   (e) inclusive language (f) anecdote
2. 'more than 60 young people use this park'
   (a) rhetorical question (b) emotive language (c) statistics (d) expert opinion
   (e) inclusive language (f) anecdote
3. 'Dr Helen Marsh, a youth health researcher, says...'
   (a) rhetorical question (b) emotive language (c) statistics (d) expert opinion
   (e) inclusive language (f) anecdote
4. 'My own son was a shy kid who struggled to make friends.'
   (a) rhetorical question (b) emotive language (c) statistics (d) expert opinion
   (e) inclusive language (f) anecdote
5. 'a heartbreaking blow to our young people'
   (a) rhetorical question (b) emotive language (c) statistics (d) expert opinion
   (e) inclusive language (f) anecdote
6. 'We all want a town that cares about its future.'
   (a) rhetorical question (b) emotive language (c) statistics (d) expert opinion
   (e) inclusive language (f) anecdote

Write your answer.

7. What is the writer's contention (main argument)?

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Persuasive Techniques

Identify and explain how writers try to persuade readers (continued)

8. Why does the writer include the story about her son?

9. What action does the writer want readers to take?

10. Write a sentence that uses a rhetorical question AND inclusive language to argue for longer lunch breaks.

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Name the technique used in each quote.

1. a) rhetorical question
2. c) statistics
3. d) expert opinion
4. f) anecdote
5. b) emotive language
6. e) inclusive language

Write your answer.

7. The council should not replace the Riverside Skate Park with a car park.
8. To make the issue personal and emotional and show the park's real benefits.
9. Attend the council meeting on Tuesday night.
10. Answers will vary. Example: Don't we all work better after a proper break to eat and move?

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