



Saint Elizabeth's Knowledge Mat



Year: 5

Subject: English

Genre: Balanced Discussion

Model Text: Should Magic Be Used Outside of Hogwarts?

1. Key Knowledge

- A balanced discussion considers **both sides of a topic** – it is different to a debate which only argues one side of an argument.
- A discussion text must be balanced, **fair and unbiased**.
- A discussion text usually follows this **structure**: introduction, discuss 'for', discuss 'against', conclusion.
- Discussion texts adopt a **formal tone**.

2. Key Phrases of Discussion

No-one can deny that...

There is no doubt that...

It could be argued that...

Some people fear...

Scientists believe that...

Experts argue that...

Those in favour claim that...

There is much debate whether...

People have expressed that...

A major cause of...



3. Key Grammar and Punctuation

Relative clauses – A subordinate clause used to give extra information about a noun. They must start with a **relative pronoun**.
The rabbit, who appeared to be lost, dashed back into the hedges.

Relative pronouns – who, which, whose, whom or that.

Semi-colon ; – Marks two, closely related, independent clauses – often replacing conjunctions. **I have a test tonight; I can't go out!**

Brackets () – Used to show parenthesis (extra information) that is not essential to the main point. **Lucy (from London) won the award.**

Present tense verbs – A verb that tells you what the subject is doing right now! **The witness, who is testifying in court,...**

Passive voice – Tells us what is being done to someone or something. **The video was posted online by Ali.**

4. Key Language Features

Generalisers – Show how many/often people agree.



Facts and statistics – Use facts and statistics (% , $\frac{3}{4}$ etc) to shock or convince your reader.



Formal tone – Talk **properly**, not as you would in conversation.



Conjunctive adverbials – Link your arguments together.



Reported speech – Show what people have said about the topic.



Rhetorical Questions – Ask questions that don't need an answer!



Modal verbs – Show what 'could' happen.

