

Activity

Episode 8
25th March 2014

Tassie Timber

Key Learning

Students will investigate the debate about whether some old growth forests should be opened up for logging and construct an argument for or against the issue.

The Australian Curriculum

English / Literacy / Creating texts

Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive print and multimodal texts, choosing text structures, language features, images and sound appropriate to purpose and audience ([ACELY1704](#)) *Year 5*



Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, choosing and experimenting with text structures, language features, images and digital resources appropriate to purpose and audience ([ACELY1714](#)) *Year 6*



Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, selecting aspects of subject matter and particular language, visual, and audio features to convey information and ideas ([ACELY1725](#)) *Year 7*



English / Literacy / Interpreting, analysing, evaluating

Identify characteristic features used in imaginative, informative and persuasive texts to meet the purpose of the text ([ACELY1690](#)) *Year 4*



Identify and explain characteristic text structures and language features used in imaginative, informative and persuasive texts to meet the purpose of the text ([ACELY1701](#)) *Year 5*



English / Language / Text Structure and organisation

Understand how authors often innovate on text structures and play with language features to achieve particular aesthetic, humorous and persuasive purposes and effects ([ACELA1518](#)) *Year 6*



Discussion Questions

1. What have you learned about forests and logging as a result of watching this story?
2. What does the government mean when it says it wants to *unlock* logging areas?
3. Why has timber been such an important part of Tasmania's economy since Europeans arrived?
4. What's the difference between plantation forests and old growth forests?
5. Many Tasmanians think that the forests are more valuable to the environment than to loggers. Discuss.
6. How do the forests contribute to tourism?
7. Tasmania has the highest unemployment rate in the country. How do you think this affects the government's decision to unlock the forests?
8. Logging is seen by many as part of Tasmania's identity. Explain what this means.
9. Why is logging controversial?
10. Imagine you are the Premier of Tasmania. What would you do? Explain why.

Activities

Class discussion

Hold a class discussion clarifying the arguments raised in the BtN logging debate story. Discuss the different points of view and issues raised in the debate, for example:

- Tasmania's economy: providing income and jobs
- Environmental – clearing old growth forests
- Tourism – removing some old growth forests that tourists visit

Students will investigate the logging debate in detail by either holding a mini debate about the issue **or** constructing an exposition text.

Question to respond to:

Should some old growth forests be opened up for logging?

Mini debate

Preparing for your mini debate

- Working in pairs, students will prepare a 1-2 minute speech for a mini debate on the whether some old growth forests be opened up for logging. One person will speak for the affirmative and the other will speak for the negative.
- Before students begin to construct their argument, ask them to record what they already know about the topic and what they would like to find out. Students then research the topic to gain a greater understanding of the issue.
- Ask students to list their arguments in point form on paper (without their partner seeing them). When they have done this, ask them to choose the five best points that will form the basis for their debate.
- Students will write in point form, their debate on cards that fit into the palm of their hand. Their debate needs to have an introduction (introducing the topic), middle (three main points) and a conclusion (restating their position). Students practise their speech and then present the mini debate to other students.

Guide for giving feedback

- Was the information clear and accurate?
- Were the arguments logical?
- Were the counter arguments accurate and relevant?
- Comments about the presentation style (tone of voice, body language, enthusiastic, convincing).

Reflection

- How difficult was it to think of points to support one side of the argument?
- Do you think you would have done a better job supporting the other side of the argument?
- Was I able to convince others of my opinion?
- Did my opinion change?
- What did you learn from this activity?

Construct your own exposition text

Explain that students will be constructing a text to persuade others that some old growth forests in Tasmania should or should not be opened up for logging. Provide students with the following structure to follow when completing this activity.

Structure of an exposition text

Introduction

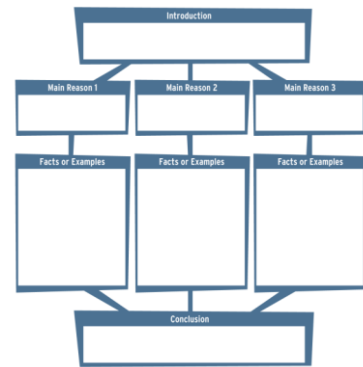
- What is the point you are trying to argue? Construct an introductory paragraph which states the issue or topic.
- Introduce the arguments that will be developed in the body of the text.

Body

- Construct arguments that support your point of view.
- Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence which introduces each point.
- The rest of the paragraph gives more reasons.
- Arguments can be ordered from strongest to weakest.

Conclusion

- Restate your position on the argument
- Construct a concluding paragraph that provides a summary of your arguments and a call to action.



readwritethink

Use a persuasion map to plan your exposition text.

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/persuasion_map/

Further Investigation

Find out more about old growth forests. Use the following headings to help guide students' research:

What are old growth forests?

Biodiversity

Old growth forests in Australia

Students can present their information as a poster or use publishing software.

Related Research Links

Behind the News – Logging War

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3755218.htm>

ABC News – Tony Abbott says too much Tasmanian forest 'locked up', forms new council to support timber industry

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-05/abbott-timber-industry-dinner-forestry-council-forest-locked-up/5299046>

ABC News - Federal Government defends move to delist part of Tasmania's World Heritage Area
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-02-03/pressure-grows-for-federal-government-to-delist-more-of-tasmani/5233640>

ABC News – Greens slam bid to reopen World Heritage areas to logging
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-01-31/call-to-end-world-heritage-listing-for-tasmanian-forests/5230066>