

# 8. Planning the Content of your Debate

## For and against

Once you have decided on a topic to debate you need to frame it in the form of a motion (for example, "This house believes that the voting age should be reduced to 16"). Divide the class into two equal sized groups and decide which group is going to argue FOR the motion and which group is going to ARGUE against it. You may wish to toss a coin as a fair way of deciding this. Then work through the following four activities:

### 1 List your ideas

Ask each group to think of all of the arguments they can make for their side of the debate and summarise each on a separate post-it note.

### 2 Prioritise

Once they have listed their arguments, ask your students to arrange their post-it notes in order of most important to least important argument. Next, ask them to choose their top six arguments and rank them in order of importance. They can use the Priority Pyramid sheet to do this.

### 3 Find the thread

Ask the students to see if they can identify an overall argument which sews all their individual arguments together.

### 4 PEEL: Point, Evidence, Explanation, Link

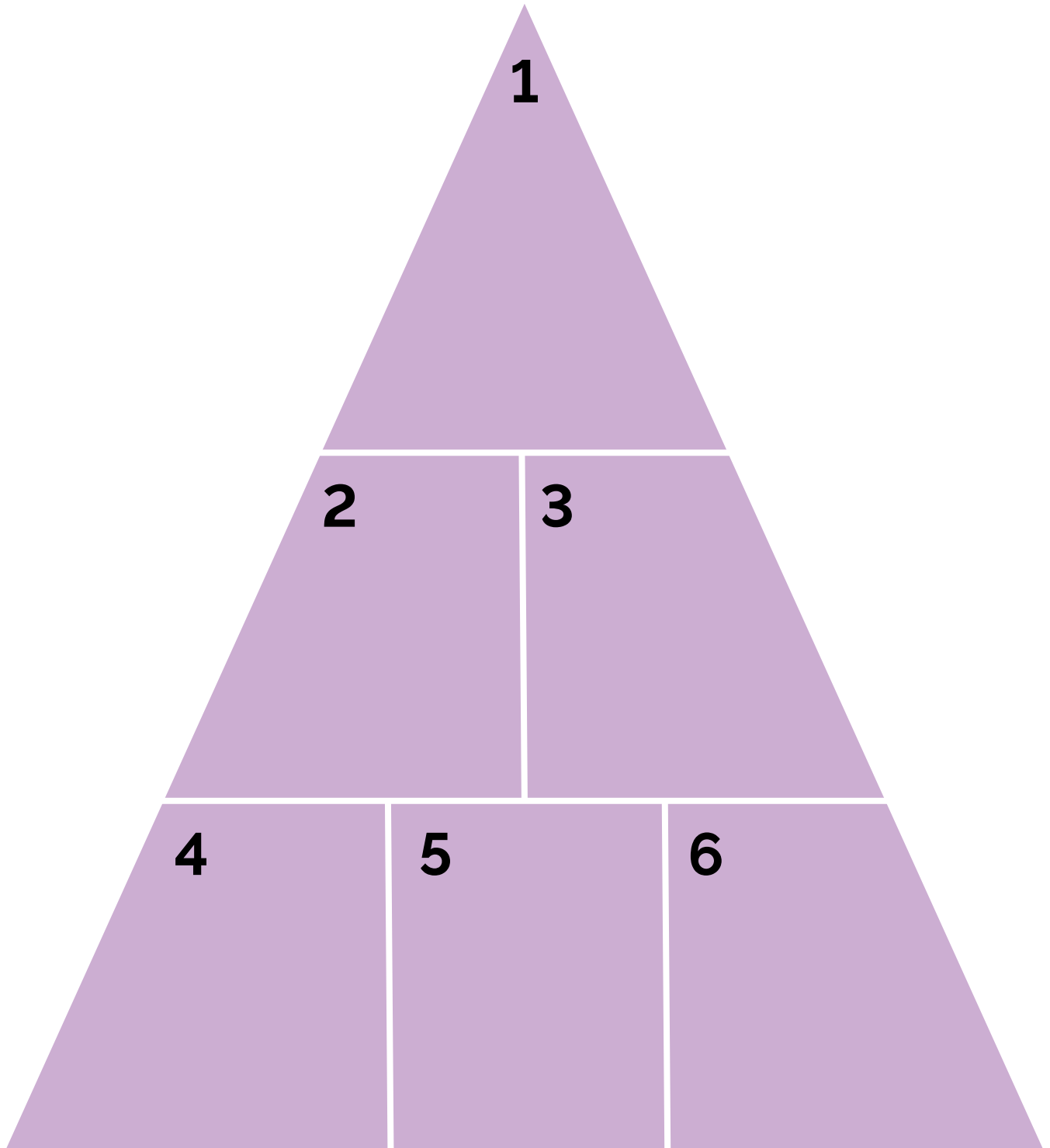
Encourage your students to use PEEL to structure each of their argument. They can use the PEEL sheet to do this.



# Priority Pyramid

Write your six arguments into the pyramid in priority order, with your strongest argument at the top.

Motion for debate: .....



# PEEL

For each of your arguments, note down your point, evidence, explanation and any links back to your main argument or next point.

Overall argument:.....

Argument 1:

Point  
Evidence  
Explanation  
Link

Argument 2:

Point  
Evidence  
Explanation  
Link

Argument 3:

Point  
Evidence  
Explanation  
Link

Argument 4:

Point  
Evidence  
Explanation  
Link

Argument 5:

Point  
Evidence  
Explanation  
Link

Argument 6:

Point  
Evidence  
Explanation  
Link

