

'Young people today just hang around and cause trouble in their yobbish gangs.' (Councillor Jacobs)

'There's just nothing to do around here.' (Jo Wright, 15)

There have been recent newspaper reports condemning the behaviour of young people in your town. Stories have been written about the 'gangs' hanging around intimidating people. There have been reports of vandalism, graffiti and damage to shops and properties, all blamed on young people. In the paper, the police have been quoted describing their nightly rounds: 'Each evening we see disturbing numbers of youths who seem hellbent on causing trouble.'

The local gym says they do not have the facilities or room for under 16's. The meeting place recently cancelled a series of classes because of a lack of funds. There has been a suggestion of a 'café-milk bar' being set up. This would be a café, opened in the evening specifically for young people. This has helped to make a difference in other places but not everyone is keen on this idea as any venue could only hold up to 30 people. 'Where would all the others go? Just cause trouble somewhere else?'

The local council have decided to take action.

A curfew has been suggested as one possible solution to this problem. This would mean a local law being passed that would make it illegal for young people to be out after a certain time. Police would have powers to caution and to remove from the streets **any** young people no matter what they were doing. There are some councillors and many voters who think this is the only way to solve the problem, however, there are others who disagree

**You have been invited to speak to the council about this problem and have been asked to suggest possible solutions.**

- List five possible ideas that you could suggest.
- Share your ideas with a partner or small group. This might help you to consider alternative ideas.
- What should the council do? What might help young people and improve the situation? Is it just that people need somewhere to go? Will money be needed?
- Once you've done some preliminary thinking and planning, you need to write a formal, persuasive speech explaining your ideas for a solution.
- Use this opportunity to get the council to listen to your ideas. Outline what the problem is and what you think the solution could be.
- If you want to be listened to by the council, you need to be formal, polite and clear in your ideas. Use the rules of persuasion to help you write a powerful speech:

Top tips:

- Use the rule of three.
- Use repetition to reinforce your points.
- Make powerful statements to convince your audience.
- Try to appeal to the head, the heart, and the senses.
- Give your listeners positives and benefits in your speech.
- Use hard evidence, statistics, and soft evidence, opinions.
- Make sure you use rhetorical questions.
- Use the word 'we' or 'you' or 'our.'
- Vary your sentences for impact – short and long.