

## Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde: Writing Exercise 2 (English Lit) — Writing to argue

Read the following passage from Act 1 of the play. Utterson, Lanyon and Jekyll have been discussing their views of the mysteries of the brain. Utterson explains his opinion thus:

*For I am of a mind you see, that we live inside a little dish of light, surrounded by a black infinity of darkness. And it seems the darkness is forever clawing at the light, that our circle of security is shrinking, like a crumbling shoreline lapped by an insistent sea. For there are demons lurking out there in the darkness, gentlemen, and if we take a step beyond our gates, I tell you, they will have us.*

- ➔ Write a speech in which you argue either FOR or AGAINST Utterson's point of view. Your speech will be delivered to your classmates.

### Remember

- ➔ You are writing a speech, so consider how you can artfully use language to make your audience listen and take notice.
- ➔ Your audience is your classmates. Make sure you use the sort of language they will relate to - your style could be informal and chatty as you are appealing to your peers.
- ➔ The purpose of your speech is to argue your point of view.
- ➔ Use appropriate techniques - for example
  - Rhetorical questions
  - Emotive language
  - Counter-arguments for opposing views
- ➔ Think about how Utterson's view might be relevant to modern life, as well as his own time, and use your understanding of the whole piece to help argue your opinion.