

Rhetorical Questions

Rhetorical questions are those questions that do not expect an answer. These are used simply as a way of drawing attention to something or making the audience think about the question.

A rhetorical question is sometimes used to draw attention to a negative situation:
What is the use of asking her? (Meaning: It is no use asking her.)

Questions beginning with 'how' or 'why should' can be used to reject suggestions or requests.

Why should she? (Meaning: that she will not do whatever we are asking.)

Questions beginning with modal verbs can be used to focus the audience on asking themselves what they think about a certain topic.

Can you see yourself in a world without elephants?

Now think of some rhetorical questions for these situations:

1. You would like your friend to share their lunch with you.
2. You forgot your homework and you don't want the teacher to be angry.
3. You would like your parents to let you go out on Saturday afternoon with your friends instead of visiting grandma.

You have a delicious chocolate bar to sell (The YumYum). Write THREE rhetorical questions that could be used as part of an advert to persuade people to buy a YumYum bar.

