Speaking and Listening – Level 9

Sample 1 Group discussion: Persuasive devices in Emma Watson’s speech on feminism

Extract 1

Note: Students have been numbered left to right from 1 to 4.

STUDENT 2 So, after watching that video, what do we think the issue is that was being discussed?

STUDENT 3 I think the issue being discussed was that lots of people think that feminism is all about being anti-men, and that’s not true and that’s why it’s a big issue.

STUDENT 1 Also … (COUGHS) … I also feel like the main point there is that ‘feminism’ isn’t just an ugly word and uncomfortable to use. It’s changed from what it used to be. Like, when she was younger, feminism would mean something totally different to what it would mean in today’s society.

STUDENT 2 Yep.

STUDENT 4 In today’s society, she mentioned that ‘feminism’ has become an ugly word or it’s, like, women decide not to be known as a feminist. So she’s kind of saying that more than ever, the word ‘feminism’ and feminism as a concept needs to come back, because it’s not hating men or anti-men. It’s just equality for both genders.

STUDENT 2 As well as talking about feminism, I feel like she also discusses gender equality as a whole and whether or not men and women should have equalised rights.

She also talks about women being afraid to identify themselves as feminists because of what’s associated with the labels and the stereotypes and how they’re generalised.

So what do we think Emma Watson was contending to do? What was her contention?

STUDENT 4 So, her contention was to kind of tell the world that feminism hasn’t … doesn’t have to be identified by the word ‘feminist’ or ‘feminism’. It needs to make a comeback and it needs to protect women around the world. So her contention was gender equality in general, like, how she wanted to achieve that in the future.