



Name _____

Debating the Power of Words

Instructions: Josef Pieper challenges readers to think deeply about the ethical use of language. Below are **five debate-style prompts**. For each:

- Write down **arguments for** the statement.
- Write down **arguments against** the statement.
- Decide your personal stance and explain why.

1. Can persuasive speech ever be neutral, or is it always leaning toward manipulation?

2. If a listener fails to question what is said, is the abuse of power partly their responsibility?

3. Are euphemisms (like “downsizing” or “friendly fire”) sometimes necessary, or do they always harm truth?

4. Is propaganda ever justified if it serves a good cause?

5. Is it possible for society to remain free if language is corrupted, or will power always follow corrupted words?