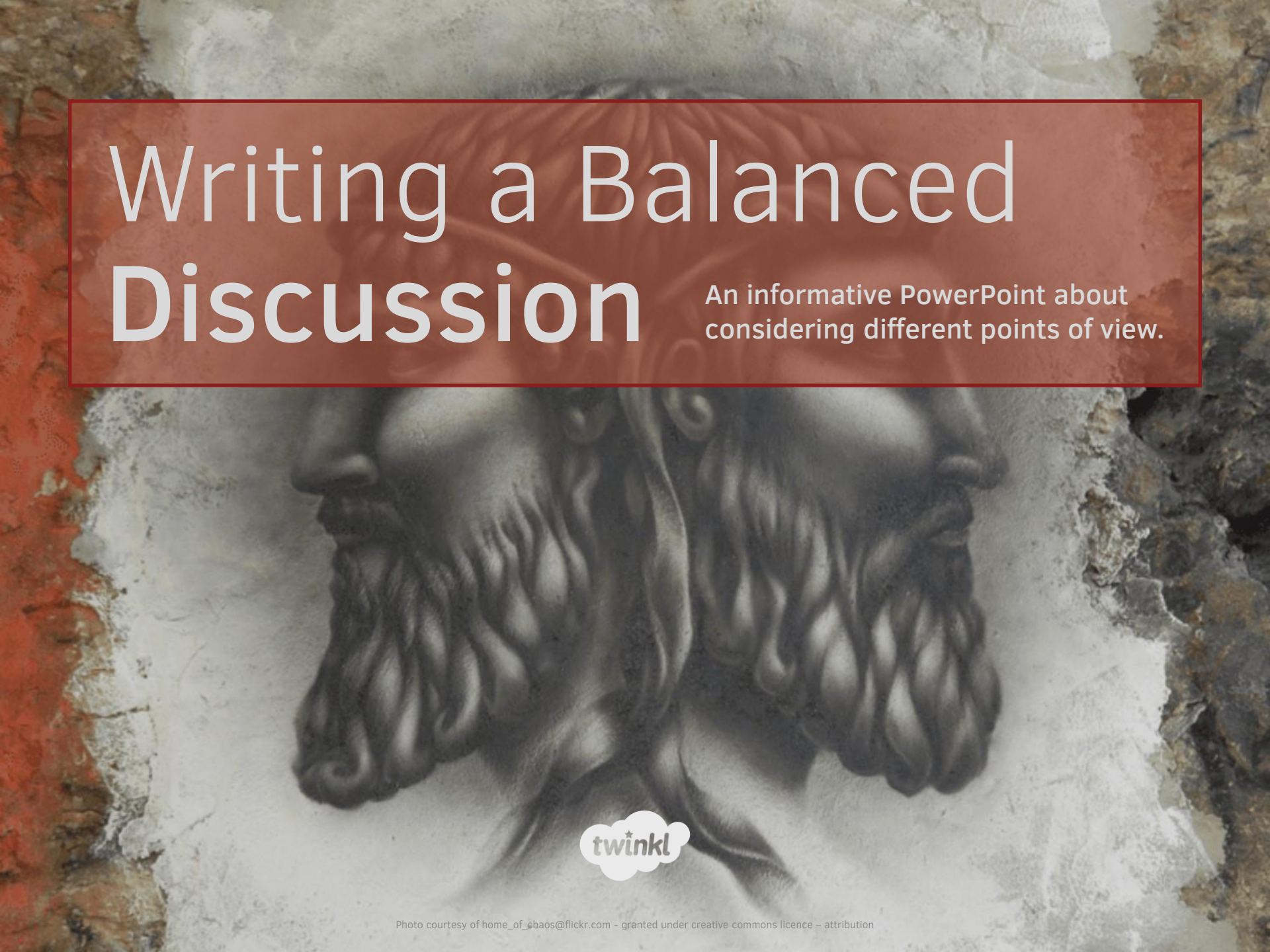
Writing a Balanced **Discussion**

An informative PowerPoint about considering different points of view.



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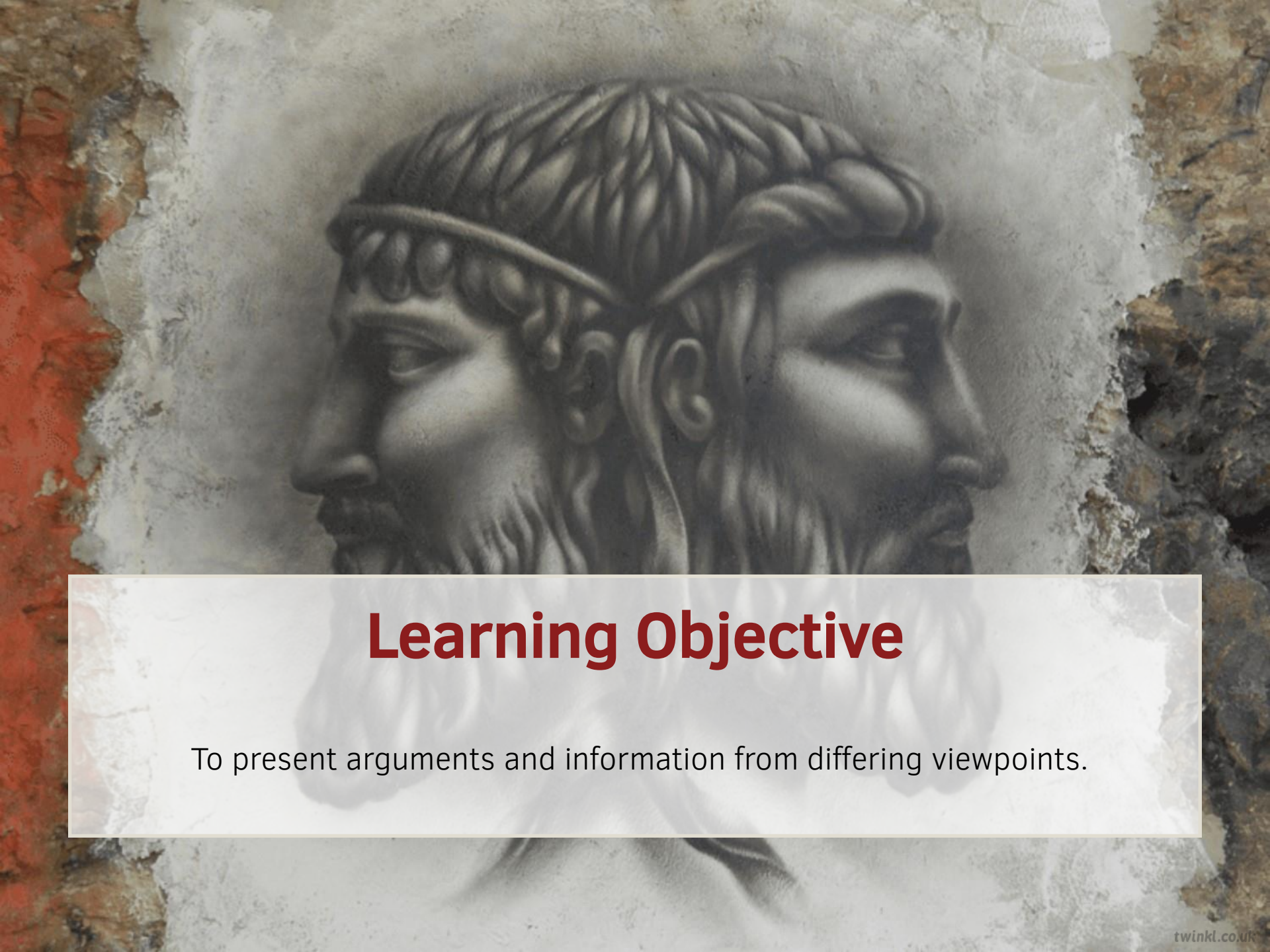

Learning Objective

To present arguments and information from differing viewpoints.

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Structure

- **Opening statement:**
  Introduce the issue and preview the main arguments.
- **Arguments for:**
  Points and evidence.
- **Arguments against:**
  Points and evidence.
- **Conclusion:**
  Recommendation and summary.

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Features

- Discussions are in the present tense, e.g.:

  Many rhinos are killed for their horns.

- Use appropriate conjunctions in discussions to make the points flow:

  because
  however
  this shows
  therefore

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Techniques

- Turn the title into a question as it gets the reader thinking, e.g.:

  Should we hunt whales?

- Open the discussion by introducing the reader to the subject. State why you are debating the issue.

- Try to see the argument from both sides.

- Give reasons and evidence for all the points you make. Researching the topic beforehand helps with this.

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Conclusion

- Conclude with the decision that is correct for you.
- In concluding a discussion it is important to give a reason for what you have decided.
- If it is a discussion that presents a balanced viewpoint, check that you have been fair to both sides.

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Finally...

Re-read the balanced discussion you have just written.

Would you be persuaded?

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