

Week 7 Lesson 5 work

Can I write an effective argument?

Model text

Should children be allowed to stay in at break times?

A group of children at Monkwick Junior School feel they should have the right to stay in at break times if they want to. There are a number of impracticalities regarding such a ridiculous idea but the children appear not to have considered them.

Firstly, the children have to be supervised at all times and if there were children inside and outside this would not be possible. The budget for lunchtime stuff is already being stretched and there is certainly not enough money to employ extra staff just to satisfy these selfish children.

Some of the children are suggesting that the teachers could supervise them if they choose to be indoors at playtime. Are the overburdened teachers not working hard enough already? Do they not deserve 50 minutes to reflect on the morning? Do they not need those 50 minutes to prepare for the afternoon? Asking the teachers to supervise the children is beyond their job description.

Everybody knows that fresh air is needed to help the brain function at its best. In a recent study, Oxford University found that children's concentration tripled once they had been outside. If children were allowed to stay cooped up inside all day their concentration would suffer.

Of course some people might say it's unfair to make children go outside on a cold day. However, it has been proven that colds and illness spread in warm conditions so being outside is actually beneficial to their health. Plus, they get to run around and get some exercise while being outside.

Children need to go outside at break times. They need fresh air and exercise for their health. Teachers need a break to prepare, reflect and relax. However, the fundamental reason why children cannot stay in at break times is because there is just not enough money to provide supervision.

RED

Write an argument either in favour or against people being encouraged to be vegetarian. Alternative arguments listed at the bottom.

Arguments for being vegetarian	Arguments against having to be vegetarian
Healthier with less fat leading to longer lives	Individual choice – you choose what you want to eat
Animals are killed for food – this is morally wrong	Humans throughout history have always eaten meat.
Animals bred for food no other purpose	Animals welfare standards improving.
Animals kept in captivity – life quality	In small quantities, it can be part of a healthy diet.
Grazing animals cause environmental damage – global warming and destroys natural habitat and their animals	It tastes good.
You can still eat a balanced diet – so nutritious	

Remember to include fact and opinion, emotive language, rhetorical questions and counterargument in your argument.

Opening paragraph – introduce what your argument is.

e.g.

I believe that it is important that people should be encouraged to be vegetarian. The main reasons for this are that it is better for animals, better for us and better for the environment.

Main body

Give the reasons for your argument. You can use the reasons given above or add ones of your own.

Counter argument

Choose one of the arguments against your argument.

Some other people believe that...

Concluding paragraph - this is where you sum up your argument giving your main reasons.

In conclusion, I believe that...

Alternative arguments

Children should be allowed as much screen time as they want.

Dogs are better pets than cats.

Children should choose what they learn in school.

Children should be paid to go to school.

We should shut down zoos.

YELLOW

Write an argument either in favour or against people being encouraged to be vegetarian. Alternative arguments listed at the bottom.

Arguments for being vegetarian	Arguments against having to be vegetarian
Healthier with less fat leading to longer lives	Individual choice – you choose what you want to eat
Animals are killed for food – this is morally wrong	Humans throughout history have always eaten meat.
Animals bred for food no other purpose	Animals welfare standards improving.
Animals kept in captivity – life quality	In small quantities it can be part of a healthy diet.
Grazing animals cause environmental damage – global warming and destroys natural habitat and their animals	It tastes good.
You can still eat a balanced diet – so nutritious	

Remember to include fact and opinion, emotive language, rhetorical questions and counterargument in your argument.

Opening paragraph – outline your argument.

Main body – give your reasons for your case.

Counterargument

Conclusion – Sum up your argument with what you believe.

Alternative arguments

Children should be allowed as much screen time as they want.

Dogs are better pets than cats.

Children should choose what they learn in school.

Children should be paid to go to school.

We should shut down zoos.

GREEN

Write an argument either in favour or against people being encouraged to be vegetarian. Alternative arguments listed at the bottom.

Remember to include fact and opinion, emotive language, rhetorical questions and counterargument in your argument.

To start with, make a list of arguments for and against being encouraged to be vegetarian.

Choose which side of the argument you wish to propose.

Opening paragraph – outline your argument.

Main body – give your reasons for your case

Counterargument

Conclusion – Sum up your argument with what you believe.

Alternative arguments

Children should be allowed as much screen time as they want.

Dogs are better pets than cats.

Children should choose what they learn in school.

Children should be paid to go to school.

We should shut down zoos.