

# Week 7 Lesson 5

Can I write an argument?

# Fast Five

1. School is good fun. (fact or opinion)
2. He ran up the stairs quickly. In this sentence which word is the adverb?
3. How many times do I have to tell you? (Is this rhetorical or not?)
4. Counterargument is when you count the number of good reasons you have supporting your opinion. True / false
5. 'The person had a bad day.' Rewrite this using more emotive language.

# Fast Five Answers

1. Opinion
2. quickly
3. Rhetorical
4. False
5. The crestfallen soul had a day full of despair.  
(other possible answers)

# Writing an argument

We have spent this week looking at techniques we can use to write an effective argument.

These are the specific techniques that we have examined:

- fact and opinion
- rhetorical questions
- counterarguments
- emotive language
- We will look at each of these separately. You will be able to refer to the model text on the work document.

# Should children be allowed to stay in at break times?

- The text we will be looking at argues against the idea of children being allowed to stay in at break times.
- It uses all of the techniques we have studied.

## Opening paragraph

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.

# Fact or opinion - can you identify what is fact and what is opinion in this argument?

- 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.

# Fact are in red. Opinions are in blue.

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- 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.

# Rhetorical questions – can you identify where the rhetorical questions have been used?

- 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.



Rhetorical questions have been used here to emphasise that the teachers work hard and would have to work even harder.

- 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.

# What key technique is being used in this paragraph?

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.

Counterargument – this is indicating that there is an alternative point of view(children should be allowed to stay inside), but they are addressing it and downplaying it.

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# Emotive language

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**.

By using this description, the writer is trying to make sure you don't feel any pity for them.

Are the **overburdened** teachers not working hard enough already?

The writer could have just said hard working, but overburdened adds to the effect.

If children were allowed to stay **cooped** up inside all day their concentration would suffer.

This emphasises the fact the children will not be able to move around much.