

Fast Five

Correct the red spelling

1. Billy loved football, **acording** to his best friend.
2. No more tickets were **avalible** for this evening's concert.
3. The princess didn't **rekognis** the King.
4. The **foregn** exchange student loved the school.
5. Andrew loves books, **espehally** the Harry Potter series.

Fast Five Answers

Correct the red spelling

1. Billy loved football, **according** to his best friend.
2. No more tickets were **available** for this evening's concert.
3. The princess didn't **recognise** the King.
4. The **foreign** exchange student loved the school.
5. Andrew loves books, **especially** the Harry Potter series.

**Can I understand the
features of a discussion
text?**

Discussion texts

The purpose of a discussion text is to present an argument and information from differing viewpoints.

Structure

Opening Statement - introduces the issue and previews the main arguments.

Arguments for - points and evidence

Arguments against - points and evidence

Conclusion- recommendations and summary

Look at the discussion topic below and discuss with an adult, or record on paper, two arguments in favour and 2 arguments against.

Should animals be kept in zoos?

Possible Arguments

Should animals be kept in zoos?

Yes

- Protection of the animal
- Breeding program

No

- Not natural habitat for the animals
- Not all zoos provide a good environment for the animals

Consider both sides

It is important to think of both sides of the argument, even if you strongly believe in one side.

Should 11 year olds be allowed to vote for the Government?

Possible answers

Should 11 year olds be allowed to vote for the Government?

Yes

- They live under the rules that the Government make.
- If it was a subject taught at school, they could make an informed decision.

No

- Too young for this kind of responsibility.
- Not all 11 year olds would cast their vote sensibly.

Model text

Model texts are important as they show us what a good discussion text looks like. We use model texts to guide our own writing.

You can read the model text using the google document attached, or by reading the following 2 slides.

Should children wear school uniform?

Ever since they were introduced in Victorian times, school uniforms have been a contentious subject. In this discussion text I will look at both sides of the argument – why some teachers think they are important, and why some children don't enjoy wearing them..

Supporters of school uniform argue that fashionable clothes, and arguing about whose clothes are nicer, can distract children from their schoolwork. In addition, they say that school uniform makes everyone look the same, whereas if you let children wear their own clothes it would be obvious whose parents had lots of money and whose did not. The poorer children might get bullied, they claim. Furthermore, the more fashion-conscious children might not want to risk getting their own clothes dirty or torn, so they might not want to do activities such as art.

Many teachers feel that school uniform is good for discipline and makes the children feel part of the school. They maintain that on school trips, it is easier to check all the children are present if they are wearing school uniform. What's more, some adult jobs (e.g. flight attendants, nurses or policemen) involve wearing a uniform, so children might as well get used to it early. Finally, school uniform makes life easier for busy parents because they know exactly what their child is going to wear each day, and they know they're not going to get into any argument about whether a certain garment is suitable to wear to school!

Critics of school uniform argue that making children wear exactly the same clothes stifles their individuality and creativity. In some countries, like France and America, school uniform is almost unheard of. Most adults do not have to wear a uniform to work and would be horrified if their bosses suggested it, so why should children have to wear one to school? Furthermore, some schools insist that uniforms are bought from a certain shop, and this can be expensive. Poorer children would have to buy their uniforms second-hand which could embarrass them. Moreover, the style of school uniform does not suit everyone.

There are yet more problems with school uniform. Everyone wearing the same clothes can lead to lots of lost property because there might be five blue fleeces left in the playground and nobody knows who they belong to. Children would recognise their own clothes much easily. What's more, children don't argue over clothes on non-uniform days, so why would they tease each other if they wore their own clothes all the time? Finally, the point about children wearing school uniform so they can be spotted easily on school trips isn't true because children often wear their own clothes on outings.

In conclusion, there are advantages and disadvantages about wearing uniform and wearing ordinary clothes to school. On balance, although some children hate wearing school uniform , I think there are probably more arguments in favour of school uniform. They do stop arguments in the playground, they do make life easier for busy parents, but most of all they let children get on with being children because they're not worried about messing their nice clothes up.

Features of a discussion text

- Title as a question makes the reader think
- Present tense
- Logical conjunctions to make the arguments flow eg therefore, because, however, this shows
- Generalisers eg many people believe
- Sentence starters to persuade eg it is strongly suggested that
- Evidence such as statistics or facts to back up an argument eg only 25% of the population believe that

Reasons For

Supporters of school uniform argue that fashionable clothes, and arguing about whose clothes are nicer, can distract children from their schoolwork. In addition, they say that school uniform makes everyone look the same, whereas if you let children wear their own clothes it would be obvious whose parents had lots of money and whose did not. The poorer children might get bullied, they claim. Furthermore, the more fashion-conscious children might not want to risk getting their own clothes dirty or torn, so they might not want to do activities such as art.

Many teachers feel that school uniform is good for discipline and makes the children feel part of the school. They maintain that on school trips, it is easier to check all the children are present if they are wearing school uniform. What's more, some adult jobs (e.g. flight attendants, nurses or policemen) involve wearing a uniform, so children might as well get used to it early. Finally, school uniform makes life easier for busy parents because they know exactly what their child is going to wear each day, and they know they're not going to get into any argument about whether a certain garment is suitable to wear to school!

Language use

Look at the sentence starters that are used. These could be used in your writing at the end of the week

Supporters of school uniform argue that

In addition

Furthermore

Many teachers feel that

Finally

Arguments Against

Critics of school uniform argue that making children wear exactly the same clothes stifles their individuality and creativity. In some countries, like France and America, school uniform is almost unheard of. Most adults do not have to wear a uniform to work and would be horrified if their bosses suggested it, so why should children have to wear one to school? Furthermore, some schools insist that uniforms are bought from a certain shop, and this can be expensive. Poorer children would have to buy their uniforms second-hand which could embarrass them. Moreover, the style of school uniform does not suit everyone.

There are yet more problems with school uniform. Everyone wearing the same clothes can lead to lots of lost property because there might be five blue fleeces left in the playground and nobody knows who they belong to. Children would recognise their own clothes much easily. What's more, children don't argue over clothes on non-uniform days, so why would they tease each other if they wore their own clothes all the time? Finally, the point about children wearing school uniform so they can be spotted easily on school trips isn't true because children often wear their own clothes on outings.

Language use

Sentence starters should be varied across the text.

Critics of school uniform argue that

Most adults do not

There are yet more problems with

Moreover