

Last week we have been reading discussion texts. What is a discussion text?

A discussion text presents arguments and information from differing viewpoints.



It gives reasons for and against an argument.



So far we have read a discussion text on the following topics.

Should children wear a school uniform?

Should boys learn cookery?

Should children do homework?

Do cats make good pets?



Remind yourself
of these texts by
reading the next
few slides



Should boys learn cookery?

In our class we have been discussing whether or not boys as well as girls should have to learn cookery.

Some of the class believe that all children should have to learn cookery. They have a number of reasons for suggesting this. Their first reason is that when you leave home, you have to be able to look after yourself, and this involves cooking. Another reason is that many girls do not enjoy cooking and would not want to cook for their husbands. Furthermore, it is not fair that a man should be able to sit and watch television while their girlfriend is cooking. These people argue that everyone should learn to cook because they will need this skill in life and because people should help each other and take turns.

On the other hand, there are quite a few people in our class who believe that boys should not bother with cookery. They argue that boys could easily buy a take-away or use a microwave meal. They believe that if they do not enjoy cooking then they should not have to do it. Some people just say that cooking is a job for girls. They think that boys' time would be better spent if they learned how to mend a car or build things.

Finally, having listened to all arguments that people have suggested I have made my own mind up. I believe that girls and boys should learn subjects that will help them with everyday living. This means that everyone should learn cookery as well as how to mend a car. This would mean that people could choose what to do depending on what they like and what they are good at.

Do Cats Make good pets?

In our class we have been debating whether or not cats make good pets. This is being discussed because we discovered that some children love cats and others dislike them.

Some of the class believe that cats make good pets because they are cuddly and beautiful. They are very clean as they look after their coats and always go to the toilet outside or on a litter tray. They also say that cats do not need a lot of food and are usually not too fussy about what they eat. Most of all, cats make good pets because they like to be stroked. There is nothing nicer than hearing a happy cat purr.

On the other hand, quite a lot of our class disagree with cats being good pets and they have a number of reasons for suggesting this. They state that cats do not make good pets because they scratch and spit when they get angry. They do not protect the house as dogs will and they often do not come when you call. Another reason is that you cannot take them for walks and they hate riding in cars. The worse reason is that, cats kill small bird and animals. These tiny creatures have no chance against a cat's sharp teeth and claws.

Finally, having considered both sides of the argument I believe that cats are not the best pets in the world and that dogs would make a much better companion.

Should Children Do Housework?

In our class we have been debating whether or not children should have to do household jobs when they are at home. This is being discussed because we discovered that some of our class are expected to help in their homes and others do not help at all.

Some of the class believe that children should help at home with basic household jobs. They have a number of reasons for suggesting this. Their first reason is that it is not fair if the adults in their home have to do all the household jobs. They suggest that there are many jobs that a child can easily do but are time-consuming if an adult has to do all of them. These would include simple tasks like washing up, putting away, laying the table, vacuuming, putting the bins out, washing the car, sweeping the path, tidying a room and so on. Another reason is that when children are older they will have to look after themselves, and carrying out these jobs is good preparation.

On the other hand, quite a lot of our class have argued the idea that children should not do household chores. They claim that when you are a child you should be able to be free to do the sorts of things that children enjoy such as watch TV, play computer games, read comics and so on. They also believe that household jobs are boring and that children do not do them well anyway. Furthermore, they point out that adults are more efficient and often have to help the child complete the task. One person said that her mother had said that it was easier to do a job herself in the beginning because her daughter only made a mess of the jobs that she gave her.

Finally, having listened to all the arguments that people have suggested, I have made up my own mind. I believe that children should do a small amount of basic housework. This means that they learn how to care for themselves and do not become lazy. They should also appreciate how hard their parents work. The amount of work should increase as the child gets older.

HOMework

Many teachers and parents think that giving children school work to do at home is a good thing. Older children at secondary school need to do homework to be able to learn enough to pass exams. There isn't enough time in the lessons to do all the things they need to know or finish off the work they have started.

If children are given homework from about the age of seven, it gets them into the habit of working at home, so that they are used to doing it by the time they go to their secondary school. Homework helps parents to understand what their children are learning at school. It gives them the chance to help their children if they need it and take an interest in what they are doing.

If the children can't do their homework because they don't understand it, the teachers will get to know this and they will be able to give them extra help. Doing school work at home helps children to learn to concentrate and work on their own. This is a great advantage when the children are older and go to college or university.

People who are against homework say children are too tired after a day at school to work at home and they need time to play. It can be difficult sometimes in a crowded house to find somewhere quiet to do the work. Other members of the family may want to watch television and younger members of the family may be noisy. Busy parents may not have time to help their children if they need it and this could cause problems. If children have to do homework, there is no time to play or watch TV before they go to bed. Some children make a fuss about doing homework and parents have a job to get them to do it, so it can all end in tears.



In Friday's lesson, you were identifying the key features of a discussion text and how they are organised. Remind yourself of the organisation by reading the text on the next slide.

Should boys learn cookery?

A title- what is being discussed. This is normally a question.

An opening paragraph which states what is being discussed (introduction)

In our class we have been discussing whether or not boys should learn cookery.

The reasons for

Some people believe that all children should have to learn cookery. They have a number of reasons for suggesting this. Their first reason is that when you leave home, you have to be able to look after yourself, and this involves cooking. Another reason is that many girls do not enjoy cooking and would not want to cook for their husbands. Furthermore, it is not fair that a man should be able to sit and watch television while their girlfriend is cooking. These people argue that everyone should learn to cook because they will need this skill in life and because people should help each other and take turns.

The reasons against

On the other hand, there are quite a few people in our class who think that boys should not bother with cookery. They argue that boys could easily use a microwave meal. They believe that if they do not enjoy cooking, they should not have to do it. Some people just say that cooking is a job for girls. They think that boys' time would be better spent if they learned how to mend a car or build things.

A final paragraph stating your opinion

Finally, having listened to all arguments that people have suggested I have made my own decision. I think that girls and boys should learn subjects that will help them with their lives. I believe that everyone should learn cookery as well as how to mend a car. I think that people could choose what to do depending on what they like and what they are good at.

The reasons
for

A title –
question

An opening
paragraph/
introduction

**Should animals perform in
circuses?**

Both children and adults are amazed by animals doing tricks when they visit the circus. However, some organisations report on neglect and how bad conditions are for the animals that are in such shows. Therefore, should animals be banned from being used in the circus?

Firstly, horses, elephants, lions and the like have been an important part of circus performance for many years and are one of the main reasons why the circus is so popular. Secondly, the show offers people the opportunity to see animals in a live setting, rather than on TV or the internet, performing unusual tricks. Many children are still fascinated when they first see these animals live. Circus enthusiasts claim that through this exposure children develop knowledge and a love for wild animals that they would otherwise not get.

On the other hand, there are many animal rights organisations that complain about animals in captivity and the abuses and neglect they face. Furthermore, there are now more modern ways of seeing animals such as zoos or safari parks, rather than transporting animals' long distances for the circus. The practice of having animals in circuses is viewed as no longer necessary by many people. Additionally, animals kept in zoos or safari parks are argued to be kept in much better conditions than those in the circus, having more freedom and living in habitats similar to the ones their ancestors lived in.

It seems then, that there are strong arguments for both for and against banning circus animals. There should be strict guidelines for circus owners who wish to use animals in their performances and animal welfare should be a priority. However, with the development of modern zoos and safari parks, it is not for a necessity.

A final
paragraph
stating your
opinion

The reasons
against

This is the one you had as your task. How did you get on?

An opening paragraph which states what is being discussed (introduction)

The reasons against

Should Children Wear School Uniforms?

There are many arguments for, and lots against children wearing school uniforms. Some believe that children should wear school uniforms because teachers are able to identify their students when they go on excursions, and it stops children competing for who wears the nicest clothes. However, some suggest that children should not wear school uniforms because it is boring and it can cost the parents a lot of money.

The first argument for wearing a school uniform is that people will know what school you come from. On excursions, it is easy for the teachers to know where their children are if they are in their school uniform. This can decrease the chances of children being lost, and it also allows for children to stay safe in their surroundings.

Secondly, school uniforms are a good idea because they make all the children look the same. If there weren't school uniforms, rich children might wear very expensive clothes with brand names, while poor children would not be able to afford these. Pupils would try to compete with each other to have the nicest clothes, and this would mean that parents might have to spend a lot of money buying new and different clothes for their children. In the long run, it would save parents money if their children had a school uniform to wear.

On the other hand, wearing school uniforms is boring. Children are not able to choose their own clothes, even though they like to be individuals.

In addition, school uniforms still cost a lot of money. Some schools may only require you to purchase one type of uniform to wear throughout the whole year, however, most schools require you to purchase a summer, winter and a sports uniform. Also, because the uniforms are to be worn every day, parents will have to buy a couple of sets of each uniform so they don't have to worry about washing them every single night. While some parents may be able to afford new ones for their children, other families may not.

After considering the arguments on both sides of the issue, I believe that children should wear school uniforms, however they should have some say in the style and the colour.

A title- what is being discussed. This is normally a question.

The reasons for

A final paragraph stating your opinion



Checklist for the structure of a discussion text

- Clear **title** that shows what is being discussed
- **Opening paragraph/introduction** - states what is being discussed and why
- Paragraph with **reasons for**.
- Paragraph with **reasons against**
- **Final paragraph** stating your views and provide reasons

Make sure you remember these as you will need to make sure your writing is structured like this

We will add these features to our working wall.

Monday 11th January 2021

Write today's
date and
objective in your
home learning
book.

Can I identify the language used
in a discussion text?



Remember to be
proud of your work
and use your best
presentation and
handwriting

Today we are going to look at the language used in a discussion text. We are looking out for sentence openers, conjunctions and vocabulary that we can add to the working wall and home learning book.

We will use the 'Should boys learn cookery?' text from last week.

Should boys learn cookery?

Connectives -
first, another
reason,
furthermore, in
addition, finally,
to conclude

Opinion words
- believe,
suggest, think,
state

Some people are **discussing** whether or not boys as well as girls should learn to cook.

Some people **believe** that all children should have to learn cookery. They have a number of **reasons** for **suggesting** this. Their **first reason** is that when you leave home, you have to be able to look after yourself, and this involves cooking. **Another reason** is that many girls do not enjoy cooking and would not want to cook for their husbands. **Furthermore**, it is not fair that a man should be able to sit and watch television while their girlfriend is cooking. These people **argue** that everyone should learn to cook because they will need this skill in life and because people should help each other and take turns.

On the other hand, there are quite a few people in our class who **believe** that boys should not bother with cookery. They **argue** that boys could easily buy a take-away or use a microwave meal. They **believe** that if they do not enjoy cooking then they should not have to do it. Some people just say that cooking is a job for girls. They **think** that boys' time would be better spent if they learned how to mend a car or build things.

Finally, having **listened** to all **arguments** that people have **suggested** I have made my own mind up. I **believe** that girls and boys should learn subjects that will help them with everyday living. This means that everyone should learn cookery as well as how to mend a car. This would mean that people could choose what to do depending on what they like and what they are good at.

Task

Use the discussion texts on the next few slides to find the vocabulary, sentence opener and conjunctions that are used.

Use the sheet on the next slide or draw it neatly in your home learning book and write the words/ sentences you find.

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How did
you get
on?

<u>Sentence openers</u>	<u>Connectives</u>	<u>Useful words</u>
In our class we have been discussing	Firstly they suggest	Suggest
Some of the class believe	On the other hand	State
Their first reason is	Furthermore	Claim
This is being discussed	Finally	believe
Some of the class believe	In conclusion	Reason
They claim that		Listened
Another reason is		Discussed
They suggest that		
One person said		
Having considered		

Language of discussion

My personal opinion is ... because ...

I believe that

Another reason for saying this is...

Furthermore...

Also....

Additionally.....

In addition to this.....

The main reason for this is

On the other hand.....

I suggest that....

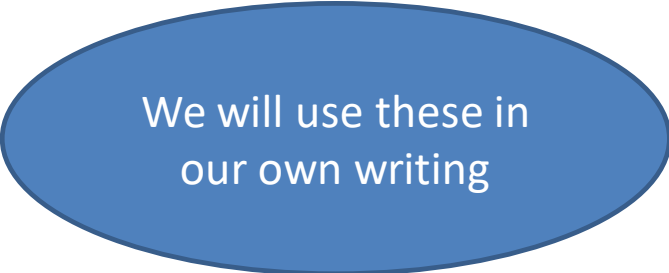
Alternatively, I believe....

However.....

A different view is.....

..... Because.....

Finally, the most important



We will use these in
our own writing



Should screen time be limited to 30 minutes a day?

Copy and complete the sentences below.

Argument for

Some of the class believe that screen time should be limited to 30 minutes a day because

Argument against

On the other hands, others believe screen time should not be limited to 30 minutes because
