

# Argumentative Writing

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The following questions can be used to analyse any piece of writing which argues a particular point of view.



- 1. STRUCTURE**  
Work out the structure of the argument by drawing a flow diagram.
- 2. EVIDENCE**  
What evidence does the writer give to back up his argument?  
Summarise his evidence. Decide whether it is convincing evidence.
- 3. EXAMPLES**  
What examples are given in the text?  
Summarise the examples given. Decide whether they illustrate the argument well.
- 4. WEAKNESSES**  
Where are the weak points in the argument?  
Pick out sentences which sound unconvincing.  
Explain what is weak about them.
- 5. CONVINCING LANGUAGE**  
How does the writer use words to make it sound like a good argument?  
Pick out words and phrases which are designed to impress or convince the reader. Look also for discursive markers like 'However', 'Indeed', etc.
- 6. AUDIENCE**  
Where in the text does the writer show who he is writing for?  
Pick out sentences which tell us who the article is aimed at.  
How well does the article cater for this type of reader?
- 7. WRITER'S PERSONALITY**  
What kind of personality does the writer put across?