

Project:

Argumentative Essay

Friday Night Party



1 What is happening in the cartoon?

2 What is the topic of the cartoon?

3 How would you convince YOUR parents?

4 Do you think the girl is allowed to go to the party? Why/ why not?

Writing texts: pro and con texts / argumentative essays (SF 4-6)

Grades for teachers

1 Some students love them, others hate them - grades! Now there is a trend that students turn it all around - they grade their teachers! In Germany there have already been some conflicts, because students gave their teachers grades on the internet and everybody could see it. Of course, some teachers weren't amused and even engaged a lawyer to prevent that. ***There are positive and negative aspects of grading teachers online.***

2 **To begin with**, grading teachers is only fair because teachers give grades to their students all the time. Students feel the pressure to be good every day and have to work hard to be successful at school while teachers are in a position where they don't have to be afraid of a bad grade. So, why not do it the other way around? It could also be useful for the teachers to know what the students think about them, which makes this a good idea.

3 **Second**, teachers will try harder to get better grades and lessons might become better. If teachers know that their work is assessed, they will prepare their lessons better and will try to include more interesting elements which encourage students to learn more at school. This would be a positive result of grading teachers.

4 **However**, you could also say that students do not know enough about teachers' work. They see teachers work in the classroom, but what do students know about teachers' lesson planning? Being a teacher is much more than just standing in the classroom, as you also have to do a lot of correction and organizing. And these are things that students cannot evaluate. Therefore giving grades to teachers might not be the right thing to do.

5 **Moreover**, it is likely that students will not give good grades to strict teachers but rather to teachers who are friendly towards students. But a friendly teacher is not necessarily a good teacher, as the most important aspect of being a teacher is to teach students important things for their future. Some students prefer a strict but competent teacher to a friendly but incompetent teacher. Assessing teachers could maybe paint a too negative picture of the teacher.

6 **Finally**, the atmosphere at school could become less friendly as the teachers always think that they are controlled by their students. School is more than grading and also is about having experiences together, for example on a students' exchange, on trips or at social events. It wouldn't be the same if teachers felt observed all the time, which puts this idea into question.

7 **To summarize**, I think that grading teachers is not a good idea, as there are too many disadvantages. However, I think it is good if students tell their teacher in class if they don't like something about his or her way of teaching. This could be helpful feedback for the teacher and improve his or her work. But I don't think we need grades for that.

Tasks:

- 1) Find out as many characteristics of an argumentative essay as possible (e.g tense, words...)
- 2) What is the function of the **bold** words?
- 3) What is the function of the sentence written in **bold italics** and the underlined parts?
- 4) Write a structure for this essay (keywords!)

A) Words and phrases that will help you a lot

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First, second, third - next, last, finally - In addition, furthermore, moreover - In conclusion, to summarize | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - and - in addition - furthermore - also - too - as well as | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - but - however - nevertheless - still - although - In contrast to - despite, in spite of - on the one hand, on the other hand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for example - for instance - such as - that is | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - so - as a result - therefore - thus - consequently | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - because, because of - as - since (= weil, da) - for (=denn) |

Task: Which headline is for which column?

“Giving an example” - “Putting things in order” - “Giving a reason” - “Adding information” - “Giving a result” - “Making a contrast”

B) Structure of an argumentative essay

1. _____

statements, facts, definition, general ideas, something interesting that has to do with the topic

2. _____

2.1 Arguments for [topic]

2.1.1 argument number 1 for...

2.1.2 argument number 2 for...

2.1.3 argument number 3 for...

2.2 Arguments against [topic]

2.2.1 argument number 1 against...

2.2.2 argument number 2 against...

2.2.3 argument number 3 against...

3. _____

personal opinion (for or against)

Important:

* we use for each argument, the introduction and the conclusion a

* the last sentence of the introduction tells the reader the topic of your essay (= _____)

* each paragraph is linked to the next paragraph with a

* each paragraph starts with a sentence in which you tell the reader the argument

(= _____)

* the rest of that paragraph is your description of this argument

(= _____)

* in the conclusion you say whether you are for or against

(= _____)

* you begin your essay with the arguments that you **do not support** and finish with the arguments that you _____

C) Checklist

CHECKLIST: my argumentative essay ...

- is written in the simple present
- has a title and an introduction
- shows pros and cons and explains them
- has a conclusion which shows my opinion
- has a logical structure
- has been checked (spelling and grammar)

!!! STRUCTURE IS EVERYTHING !!!

SOLUTIONS

A) Words and phrases that will help you a lot

| Putting things in order | Adding information | Making a contrast | Giving an example | Giving a result | Giving a reason |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| - First, second, third - next, last, finally - In addition, furthermore, moreover - In conclusion, to summarize | - and - in addition - furthermore - also - too - as well as | - but - however - nevertheless - still - although - In contrast to - despite, in spite of - on the one hand, on the other hand | - for example - for instance - such as - that is | - so - as a result - therefore - thus - consequently | - because, because of - as - since (= weil, da) - for (=denn) |

Task: Which headline is for which column?

“Giving an example” - “Putting things in order” - “Giving a reason” - “Adding information” - “Giving a result” - “Making a contrast”

Introduction

Main part

Conclusion

separate paragraph

thesis statement

linking word

topic sentence

explanation

personal opinion

support