

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1

Text Structure - Discussion

SHOULD CELLPHONES BE BANNED AT SCHOOL?

Statement of issue

Cellphones are both a blessing and a curse for our society, especially at school. Some people think that they should be banned altogether at school, while others argue that they are a vital piece of equipment. Some schools allow students to carry cellphones, but not to use them in the classroom. These tiny pieces of technology are the subject of great debate.

Case for - argument,

On the one hand, cellphones at school can create a number of problems. Students can use them to bully others through text messaging. This has been shown to make those who are bullied become too frightened to come to school and even to feel suicidal.

Argument, elaboration

In addition, if they're used in class they can distract teachers, the users and other students. When you're using cellphones in class, either for messages or games, you're wasting your time, and not concentrating on learning. Teachers also worry that students who have cellphones with internet access may download pornography at school.

Argument, elaboration

Furthermore, because the latest technology allows pictures on cellphones, many people are concerned that these could be misused in changing rooms. You could end up being put on the internet with less than your school uniform on!

Assertion

Finally, some people believe that cellphones can cause rivalry, fights and thefts. Sadly, we hear many unpleasant stories of phones being stolen and of students being jealous of other people having a better phone than theirs, and of this causing fights. If the phones were left at home, these problems wouldn't happen.

Case against - argument, elaboration

On the other hand, cellphones can be used as a way of increasing students' safety. If you're going to be home late because you've missed the bus, got a detention or had an extra sports practice or rehearsal scheduled, you can contact your family and tell them where you are and how late you'll be. This is particularly important for younger children.

Argument, elaboration,

Moreover, as technology develops faster and faster, cellphones with internet connections could allow students to access information they needed at school without having to use the school computer systems.

Conclusion - includes summation and/or recommendation

In conclusion, it can be seen that cellphones at school may have both advantages and disadvantages. It's up to us to use our commonsense and know when to push the off button!

Language Features

- Use of present tense is predominant
- Use of word chains to build topic information, e.g. cellphones, students, text messaging, bullying
- Use of relating verbs, e.g. they are a vital piece of equipment
- Use of saying and thinking verbs, e.g. worry, argue
- Use of passive voice, e.g. be banned
- Use of modality, e.g. should, could
- Use of general nouns, e.g. cellphones, students
- Use of adjectives, e.g. , vital, unpleasant,
- Use of personal pronouns to connect to audience e.g. you
- Use of contractions typical of connected speech e.g. It's, you're using
- Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. These tiny pieces of technology
- Use of adverbial phrases, e.g. at school, in changing rooms, at home
- Use of conjunctions and connectives to build point and counterpoint, e.g. while, on the one hand, on the other hand
- Use of text connectives to structure argument, e.g. also, In addition,
- Use of evaluative language, e.g. Sadly, unpleasant, wasting
- Use of beginning of sentence to focus reader's attention, e.g. on the one hand, on the other hand
- Use of compound and complex sentences