

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1

Text Structure - Argument Title

RECREATIONAL DRUGS SHOULD NOT BE LEGALISED

Statement of position

Cannabis should not be legalised for a number of important reasons. These include its links with other drug use, its psychological effects, its links with crime and its unknown effects on young people and future generations.

Argument point, elaboration

Firstly, cannabis, which is also known as marijuana, has been linked to other drug use and affects your ability to function properly. Many people not only smoke cannabis, but also drink alcohol at the same time, which impairs their ability to drive, even if they are not over the alcohol limit. In addition, many people who begin their drug experiments with cannabis go on to take more damaging drugs, which can destroy their lives. Moreover, some researchers believe that using cannabis, especially combined with alcohol, can lead to depression.

Argument point, elaboration

Secondly, cannabis growing and selling is linked to crime. Although some people would argue that crime would reduce if cannabis were legal, at present it is not. People have been hurt or even killed when they have either accidentally gone into a cannabis plantation or gone there to steal plants.

Argument point, elaboration

We should also be aware that there is still not enough research into the effects of cannabis on adolescents and innocent, unborn children for it to be called a safe drug. Lots of adolescents believe that cannabis is a soft drug which won't really hurt them, but some scientists believe that adolescents are more affected by cannabis than adults are, because their bodies are still developing. Babies may have their genes damaged by either their mother or father using cannabis, and no-one should risk this.

Reinforcement of position statement

Therefore, cannabis should not be legalised. There are too many unknown risks, especially to young people.

Language Features

Use of present tense is predominant

Use of word chains to build topic information, e.g. cannabis, alcohol, young people, depression

Use of relating verbs, e.g. are, become

Use of action verbs, e.g. smoke, drink,

Use of action verbs to create causal relation, e.g. cause, make

Use of passive voice, e.g. Cannabis is linked to crime

Use of modality, e.g. should, could, must

Use of general nouns, e.g. drugs

Use of technical language, e.g. genes,

Use of adverbial phrases, e.g. into the effects of cannabis

Use of time conjunctions to sequence events, e.g. when

Use of causal conjunctions, e.g. because

Use of text connectives to structure to structure argument, e.g. firstly, secondly, finally, therefore

Use of evaluative and persuasive language, e.g. damaging, innocent, no-one should risk this

Use of beginning of sentence to focus reader's attention, e.g. firstly cannabis, secondly cannabis

Use of references to support argument, e.g. Some scientists believe that adolescents are more affected by cannabis than adults are, because their bodies are still developing.

Use of compound and complex sentences