

**Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1**

**Text Structure - Discussion**

**Statement of issue**

**Case for - argument and elaboration**

**Argument, elaboration**

**Case against - argument, and elaboration**

**Conclusion - includes summary and recommendation**

**ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF PET CATS**

Keeping a cat has both advantages and disadvantages. Two advantages are companionship, and pest control. However, there are also disadvantages in having a cat. These include safety of children, risks to birds, damage to gardens and allergies. This discussion will consider both the advantages and disadvantages of owning a pet cat.

One good point about owning a cat is that it can be good company, especially if you are living by yourself. A cat will always curl up beside you and will enjoy the warmth of your bed or your heater. Research has shown that many residents of retirement homes feel very lonely, and respond well to having a cat around to talk to and stroke, so they can have psychological and physical benefits for your health. Moreover, kittens are very entertaining and keep everyone who watches them amused with the way they tumble around and pounce on anything.

Another advantage of having a household cat is that there are very seldom mice or rats in the house. The presence of the cat is a deterrent to these rodents, and they keep their distance. This means that the kitchen is less likely to be infested and covered in mouse droppings.

On the other hand, this same hunting ability can be a problem for birds in the garden. A well-fed cat does not need to eat birds, but the hunting instinct often takes over, and it will drop a mangled carcass on the doorstep seeking approval for its trophy. This is particularly sad when it is a native bird such as a fantail or a wax eye, which are often very tame and come close to people. In addition, many cats have a very annoying habit of using the garden as a toilet area, which can be very unpleasant for a vegetable garden.

A cat can also sometimes appear jealous of a new baby. If a cat sits on the face of a baby in a cot, the baby could be suffocated. New mothers are often warned about this problem. Not only can cats suffocate small children, but they also carry diseases, such as worms and ringworm, which is a skin infection. Moreover, they can also make people suffer from allergies and illnesses, since cat hair can give some people asthma.

Lastly we have to consider that cats often need costly medical attention. Responsible cat owners will need to ensure that female cats do not produce litters of unwanted kittens and that male cats are not roaming wild and fighting in the neighbourhood.

Therefore, it is obvious that anyone who is thinking about owning a cat must consider all the advantages and disadvantages carefully before coming to a final decision.

**Language Features**

Use of present tense is predominant

Use of word chains to build topic information, e.g. cats, kitten, company, entertaining

Use of relating verbs, e.g. Keeping a cat has both advantages and disadvantages.

Use of saying and thinking verbs, e.g. consider, feel

Use of passive voice, e.g. be found, are provided

Use of modality, e.g. can

Use of general nouns, e.g. cats

Use of adjectives, e.g. easier, good, greater

Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. many residents of retirement homes

Use of adverbial phrases, e.g. on the doorstep

Use of conjunctions to build point and counterpoint, e.g. on the other hand, however

Use of text connectives to structure the argument, e.g. moreover, on the other hand

Use of evaluative language, e.g. very entertaining, a very annoying habit

Use of persuasive language, e.g. Anyone considering owning a cat must consider carefully...

Use of beginning of sentence to focus reader's attention, e.g. one of the advantages, Moreover

Use of empty subject, e.g. there are also disadvantages.

Use of complex and compound sentences