

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

L.C. Can you identify the key features of a
balanced argument?

Starter – Formal vs Informal Language

Sort the words and phrases into the table.

| Text message to friend | Letter to headteacher |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| | |

Wicked!

It has come to my attention that

Dear Mr Slankett,

cheers

Awesome!

It is my opinion that

as a result

wanna go

Buzzing!

Are you for real?

a great deal of litter

Which of the sentences below are formal?

☐ Absolutely crazy, isn't it?

☐ Please reply at your earliest convenience.

☐ What's even the point in learning algebra?

☐ According to a recent survey, the number of homeless people is continuing to rise sharply in the United Kingdom.

☐ I am writing to express my interest in helping out at the garden centre.

Which of these is from a balanced argument?

Some of the children are suggesting that the teachers could supervise them if they choose to be indoors at playtime. Are the teachers not working hard enough already? Do they not deserve 50 minutes to reflect on the morning? Do they not need those 50 minutes to prepare for the afternoon? Asking the teachers to supervise the children is beyond their job description.

Everybody knows that fresh air is needed to help the brain function at its best. In a recent study, Oxford University found that children's concentration tripled once they had been outside. If children were allowed to stay cooped up inside all day their concentration would suffer.

Firstly, I believe that every child should have a longer play time than our current 20 minutes for break and 30 minutes for dinner (excluding eating time). Due to the awful weather, by the time children have put hats, scarves and coats on, break time is almost over! This is simply not good enough! Children need a chance to relax and run around because they have been sat working extremely hard for hours and hours! By making break times longer, pupils will be allowed to burn their energy and will concentrate much better in class than they do now.

Before we find out, which features are you expecting to find in a balanced argument?

- First person
- Third person
- Facts and figures
- Evidence
- Paragraphs
- Openers
- Conjunctions
- Description
- Rhetorical questions
- Title question
- For and Against
- Opinion
- Present Tense
- Parenthesis
- Modal verbs

Is it better to be a child or an adult?

Being a child **can** be very exciting because you **can have** lots of fun and you **don't have** to complete lots of boring jobs that adults have to do. Peter Pan never wanted to grow up and maybe he was right! **Although**, some people **would say** that being an adult is better, due to the fact you get to earn and spend lots of money and buy whatever you want. **There are** lots of arguments for both sides. What would your opinion be?

Being a child **has** many positives! **Firstly**, children get to have amazing birthday parties with cake, ice cream, chocolate and fantastic party bags full of surprise toys and gifts! **Some children have themes** such as football or princess parties, whereas others have their birthdays in really exciting locations like play areas and swimming pools. **Furthermore**, children **get** huge gigantic presents full of brand new toys and computer games. In contrast adults get small boring gifts **(like bubble bath and socks)**.

Would you like to be treated like a King or Queen? If you are a kid, lots of people do everything for you. In the evenings, parents cook children their dinner and then wash up for them. They even wash their clothes and drive them to wherever their son or daughter wants to go! It is like having your own private taxi!



However, some people would argue that being an adult is a lot better than being a snotty child! When you are an adult you get to have a job! At the end of every month you get paid lots and lots of money (much more than you get for pocket money). Not only that, but you get to spend it on amazing things like holidays, TVs and even cars!

Secondly, once you are grown up, you get to drive a car! Driving is really fun because you can speed around roads and go on amazingly beautiful journeys all over the world. It also means you don't have to walk to your friend's house, which might be miles and miles away. That way, when you are an adult, you will never get tired and can go wherever you want to go without having to walk long distances.

Overall, it could be said that being a child is much better than being an adult simply because it is a lot more fun and you don't have to be serious all the time. In contrast, some people might also say that being an adult is better because you don't have to go to bed early and you get to do whatever you feel like doing. Which do you think is better? I wonder, who will you vote for?

- Third person

- Opinion

- Facts and evidence

- Technical language

Your Task

- **Year 5** – read through the balanced argument provided and name the features that have already been highlighted.
- **Year 6** – read through the balance argument provided and try to find examples of the features listed.

Plenary

- Let's check your understanding with a game...

<https://wordwall.net/resource/871344/english/balanced-argument-texts>