

Purposes for Writing

Writing to Discuss

Week 7 English
writing activities....



twinkl

Writing to discuss....

Please use these Powerpoint slides to guide you through the activities...I have titled each activity as Day or Activity 1/2 /3 etc but please work through at your own pace, you may complete 2 activities in a day... you may take longer to complete the final activities...up to you.

Day/Activity 1: Writing to Discuss

Writing to discuss means that you are discussing a topic. If there are multiple sides to the discussion, try to evenly represent both sides.

There are different ways of writing to discuss, such as:

balanced arguments

newspaper articles

reviews

Can you think of a discussion that you've read recently? What was it about? Was there more than one side represented?

Features of Writing to Discuss

The most important part of writing to discuss is being clear about the point you are discussing. To do this effectively, you'll need to use a range of different features.

Modal Verbs

Adverbials

Relative Clauses

Conjunctions

Some people **might** disagree...

You **may** be interested to learn...

Many people believe that school holidays are beneficial **because** they allow children time to rest.

Despite the evidence...

Furthermore, it could be argued that...

In conclusion, there are multiple reasons...

Can You Spot These Features?

Have a look at these different types of writing to discuss.
Can you spot the features?

relative
clauses

modal
verbs



adverbials

conjunctions

Balanced Argument

1

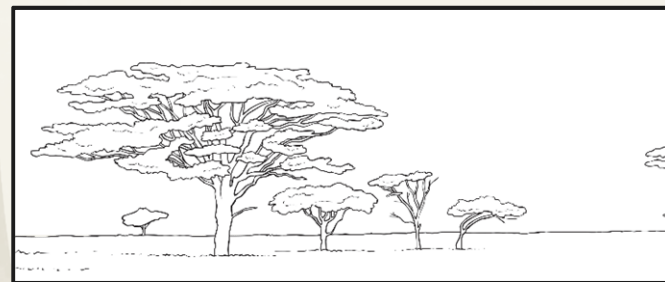
Should Animals Be Kept in Zoos?



In the UK alone, there are more than 400 zoos. These house animals from chickens and sheep to critically endangered wildlife but how ethical are they? Should animals be kept in zoos or should they be left in the wild?

2

One of the strongest arguments against keeping animals in zoos is that keeping an animal in captivity stops it from being able to exhibit natural behaviours. For example, in the wild, a lion's territory can cover up to 400 square kilometres; something that is impossible to replicate within a zoo.



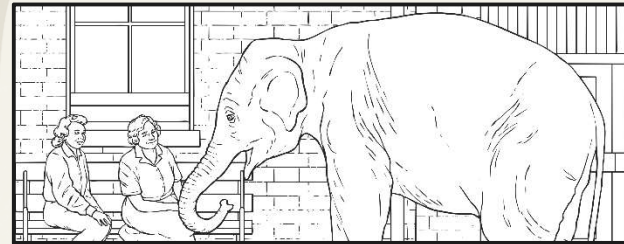
Balanced Argument

3

However, when considering the viability of zoos, there is a strong argument for them on conservation grounds. Today, there are animals housed in zoos which are entirely extinct in the wild.



4



Many zoos also provide details of endangered species alongside information about how they can better be protected. Some people consider this vital for raising awareness and, as a result, believe that zoos are positively contributing towards the conservation of endangered creatures.

Newspaper Article

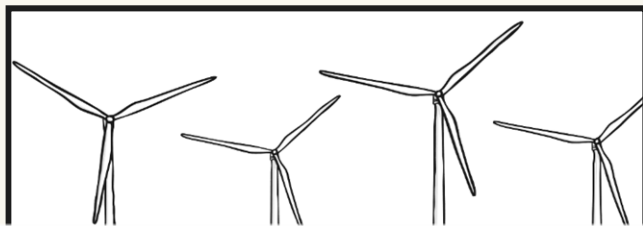
Twinkl Times



Is the New Wind Farm a Hit with Residents?

1

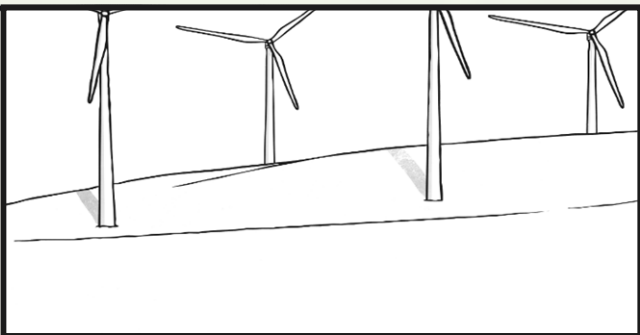
Last week, work finished on the long-awaited wind farm at Windyhill. With the turbines fully up and running, we asked residents what they thought about the new wind farm.



2

A large percentage (86%) of the people we interviewed were in favour of the wind farm. Many stated their excitement over the fact that Windyhill was beginning to create its own renewable energy.

Newspaper Article



3

"We're called Windyhill," said one resident. "That name is well-deserved and I'm glad that our breezy weather is finally being put to good use."

In contrast, there are several residents who have raised concerns about the aesthetics of Windyhill's wind farm.



4

"I can't stand looking out of my window now because the hill is littered with those ghastly white windmills," one homeowner, who lives on the outskirts of Windyhill, told us.



Do you live near to the Windyhill wind farm? If so, get in contact via the form below and let us know what you think.

Review



Movie Reviews

Five Ducks and a Cat Review

With the official release of Brynn Baum's latest masterpiece only days away, I was offered the opportunity to attend an early viewing. Being a huge fan of Baum's films, which have been entertaining generations for nearly two decades now, I jumped at the opportunity. Interestingly, the film opens with the same musical piece that ended Baum's first film, 'Two Geese and a Kettle'.

Review



I don't feel as though this was meant as a statement although several people believe that this could be a subtle hint at Baum's retirement from the film industry. Here's hoping they might be wrong.



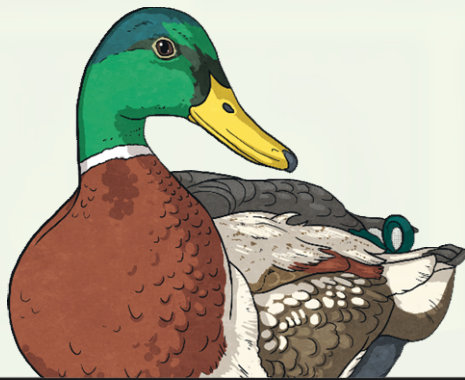
Like all of Baum's films, 'Five Ducks and a Cat' is poignant, heartwarming and makes clear points about the issues currently facing society. Mallard's honest portrayal of Duck Three is mesmerising, making it hard to believe that this is their first feature-length film.



Review



However, there is one small issue that stops 'Five Ducks and a Cat' from reaching the full five stars. Although others may disagree, the mere three hours that the film lasted just didn't seem to be long enough for the complex storyline to reach a full conclusion. Therefore, I have rated this film a total of four and a half stars.



Did You Spot the Features?

Did you manage to spot any of these features in the discussions?

relative clauses

adverbials

conjunctions

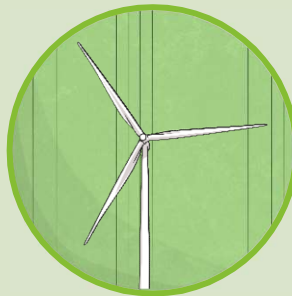
modal verbs

Were there any other features you spotted which weren't on this list?

Would you like to revisit any of the texts?



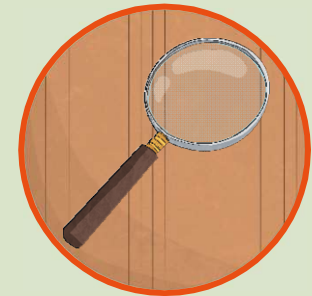
Balanced Argument



Newspaper Article



Review



Finish

Day/Activity 2:

Can you spot the features....

Using the model text provided 'Writing to Discuss' about Summer Holidays see if you can find and highlight the features of a good discussion text as covered in the last activity...if you have any problems a guide/suggested answers are also included on the second sheet of the text!!!

Writing to Discuss

Read through this balanced argument on whether school summer holidays should be shortened.

Modal Verbs	Adverbials	Relative Clauses	Conjunctions
Modal verbs indicate degrees of possibility within the discussion.	Adverbials help to support cohesion within the balanced argument.	Relative clauses add in details which help to support the discussion.	Conjunctions help to make links between the different arguments.

Should School Summer Holidays Be Shorter?

With school summer holidays in England lasting for an average of six weeks, questions are often raised about the suitability of this time frame. Are children negatively affected by such a prolonged break in their education? If so, should school summer holidays be shorter?

One of the main arguments for the shortening of school summer holidays stems from the idea that a break from formal education can disrupt children's progress within the classroom. This reasoning carries some weight when you consider the days needed to readjust to a classroom

Day/Activity 3:

Planning your own discussion text

Should children be returning to school???

At the moment the easing of lockdown is all over the news and the proposed return to school is going to have a massive impact on all of us.

For this task I would like you to research and collect arguments both for and against children returning to school at the beginning of June.

Day/Activity 3:

Planning your own discussion text

...Collect arguments both for and against returning...you can make notes in whichever way you prefer, two columns, for and against, a spider diagram or randomly presented bullet points.

...Try to make sure you have a balance of arguments on both sides (you know all of this from when we were at school!)

...You might also want to think about how you will introduce the subject of the discussion...more on that in the next activity.

Day/activity 4: Planning your discussion....

I have provided a writing frame for you to plan out your first draft of the discussion.

- It has space for an introduction, arguments for – with evidence, arguments against – with evidence and a conclusion.
- Remember to use the features you have looked at in the last few activities...use the examples as templates.
- You are sure to have personal feelings about this subject, do you want to sound too biased? Maybe, but give both sides.

Day/Activity 5: Write up your final discussion

The final task is to check your first draft, read it through, read to a family member and see what they would change.

- You are now ready to write your final draft and produce the finished piece of work.
- But that does not have to be the end...could YOU be the next Stacey Dooley or Louis Theroux? Why not rehearse reading your discussion text and then film yourself to make your own short documentary news clip.
- ...Or maybe you would rather make it into an online magazine article using Powerpoint or similar with pictures and hyperlinks to relevant websites etc....I can't wait to see how you present it.

