12. An Argumentative Essay

1. Which of these statements do you find the most controversial?

* *Smoking should be banned in public places.*
* *Gays should not be allowed to have children.*
* *Children with mental disorder should go to special schools.*
* *University students should pay for their education.*
* *Plastic surgery should be allowed only for medical reasons.*
* *The Czech Republic should leave the European Union.*

2. What are the arguments mentioned in the following text, underline them. Are they for or against the statement listed in activity 1?

* According to a recent study conducted by Yale University, USA, smoking is more harmful for teenagers... Their speed and accuracy to grasp information reduces and it becomes difficult to retain it in their mind. According to Leslie Jacobsen, Associate Professor at Yale School of Medicine, "Adolescent smokers were found to have impairments in accuracy of working memory performance". Smoking makes adolescents lethargic and slow.

<http://www.publishyourarticles.net/knowledge-hub/essay/an-essay-on-should-smoking-be-banned-in-public-places.html>

* There are no legitimate reasons for disallowing gays to adopt. If the concern is that a father/mother figure will be absent from the child's life, then adoption by single parents should also be disallowed. As it stands, however, we do allow single parents to adopt. Therefore, banning gays from adopting is hypocritical.

<http://www.debate.org/opinions/should-homosexual-people-be-allowed-to-legally-adopt-children>

* There are certainly risks associated with any surgical procedure, and the operations are quite expensive. But most plastic surgery patients know quite a bit about the procedures they elect to have due to the proliferation of television shows and internet sites on the subject. For anybody contemplating plastic surgery, it is important to know that in the U.S., in order to be a plastic surgeon, a physician has to: attend at least three years of progressive clinical training in general surgery after receiving a medical degree; go through an accredited two to three year program in plastic surgery; and pass a comprehensive written and oral exam in plastic surgery.

<http://www.articlesbase.com/plastic-surgeries-articles/why-should-plastic-surgery-be-allowed-and-not-banned-1285963.html>

3. Choose one of the statements and think of some arguments for and against it.

4. Answer these questions: Who is argumentative essay for? What about the style of such a paper? What language is usually used?

**Argumentative Essay SUMMARY:**

**Who to:** The general public, teachers, students

**Parts of a story:**

1.Title (*information about the topic*)

2. Introduction (e*xplanation of the issue, general statement)*

3. Main body (*arguments and counterarguments – there is always a good balance between them)*

4. Conclusion (*summary – a separate paragraph;* *your point of view – a separate paragraph)*

**Useful tips:** *Reading the instructions is vital so that you do not miss any points you should mention. If you write an essay as part of the assignment or homework make some research to get the necessary information. Support your ideas with information, explanations and evidence. The language of this text is usually formal and impersonal. Even if you present your own opinion, do not use informal language.*

**Paragraphs:** *Each argument or counterargument should be written in a separate paragraph; Longer texts may consist of more paragraphs – depends on the task requirement or the amount of points you want to include.*

5. Correct the layout of an argumentative essay.

Title/Headline

Summary and conclusion

Introduction

Argument

Supportive argument

Personal Opinion

Counterargument

Supportive Counterargument

6. Read this text and identify the individual parts of an argumentative essay.houl

*Smoking should be banned inside pubs and restaurants in the Czech Republic*

* 1. *Research, surveys and studies show how harmful smoking is to our health and yet the discussion whether to ban smoking in pubs and restaurants in the Czech Republic is not over. Should smoking be banned there or not?*
  2. *More and more Czech people these days do not smoke or try to give up smoking and it seems a big problem when they decide to go out. They have to become passive smokers want it or not since the air-conditiong systems in the Czech pubs are not as efficient. Studies prove that even if a person is not an active smoker he or she still inhales the smoke which can than cause cancer or other respiratory diseases.*
  3. *A further negative aspect is the smell of your hair and clothes when you come home. It almost feels like a punishment for the good time you have had in the pub. It means that you need to do the washing straight away or leave your clothes in some remote place far away from your nose.*
  4. *However, the pub keepers and owners of the restaurants have a different opinion. Most of the time they are against no smoking in their places. Smokers are their customers who will leave them if not allowed to smoke and they say that there are a lot of smoking customers.*
  5. *In addition to this it is going to cost them more money because they will have to arrange some place outside their pubs and restaurants where the smoking customers could go for a smoke. Also, if they arrange a beer garden with tables for the smokers they will have to make sure their service is provided even outside the pub.*
  6. *To sum it up, smoking is harmful and unpleasant for non-smokers who care for their health and are forced to do something they do not want to do at the same time; there owners of pubs and restaurants who have to make their living and it is not easy these days.*
  7. *Personally I believe that smoking should be banned in pubs and restaurants because of the health concerns. The owners will have to think of some other ways to attract their customers than just offering them an ashtray.*

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7. Choose one of the topics mentioned in activity 1 and prepare the layout for your argumentative essay.

**References and Bibliography:**

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<http://homeworktips.about.com/od/essaywriting/a/argument.htm>

**Answer key:**

1. Students´ own answers.

2. What are the arguments mentioned in the following text, underline them. Are they for or against the statement listed in activity 1?

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This argument is for the statement.

* There are no legitimate reasons for disallowing gays to adopt. If the concern is that a father/mother figure will be absent from the child's life, then adoption by single parents should also be disallowed. As it stands, however, we do allow single parents to adopt. Therefore, banning gays from adopting is hypocritical.

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This argument is against the statement.

* There are certainly risks associated with any surgical procedure, and the operations are quite expensive. But most plastic surgery patients know quite a bit about the procedures they elect to have due to the proliferation of television shows and internet sites on the subject. For anybody contemplating plastic surgery, it is important to know that in the U.S., in order to be a plastic surgeon, a physician has to: attend at least three years of progressive clinical training in general surgery after receiving a medical degree; go through an accredited two to three year program in plastic surgery; and pass a comprehensive written and oral exam in plastic surgery.

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This argument is for the statement

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5. A layout of an argumentative essay.

Title/Headline

Introduction

Argument

Supportive argument

Counterargument

Supportive Counterargument

Summary and conclusion

Personal Opinion

6. Title/Headline – Smoking …..

Introduction – 1.

Argument - 2.

Supportive argument – 3.

Counterargument - 4.

Supportive Counterargument – 5.

Summary and conclusion – 6.

Personal Opinion – 7.

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7. Students´ own answers.