Undervisningsopplegg til nettverksdag, engelsk

Rælingen VGS

**Topic: Persuasive Essay writing**

Competence aims:

* evaluate own progress in learning English
* evaluate and use suitable reading and writing strategies adapted for the purpose and type of text
* write different types of texts with structure and coherence suited to the purpose and situation
* evaluate and use suitable listening and speaking strategies adapted for the purpose and the situation
* express oneself fluently and coherently in a detailed and precise manner suited to the purpose and situation

Learning goals:

You are going to be able to express your opinions orally and in writing

You are going to be able to write a text with a clear structure

You are going to know the difference between formal and informal language and use it in texts

**1. PPT – introduction: Argumentation practice (se vedlegg)**

**2. Example texts – Persuasive essays:** “The Purrfect Pet”, “Why People Should Not Watch Too Much Television”.

**Persuasive essay - example**

The essay below demonstrates the principles of writing a basic persuasive essay. The different parts of the essay have been labeled. The thesis statement is in **bold**, the topic sentences are in *italics*, and each main point is underlined. When you write your own essay, of course, you will not need to mark these parts of the essay.

The essay task was as follows:

*Which animal is the best house pet? Write a persuasive essay where you come up with several reasons why your choice of pet is the best one*.

**The purrfect pet**

"A dog is man's best friend." That common saying may contain some truth, but dogs are not the only animal friend whose companionship people enjoy. For many people, a cat is their best friend. **In this essay I will argue that cats make excellent house pets as they are good companions, civilized members of the household, and easy to care for.**

*In the first place, people enjoy the companionship of cats.* Many cats are affectionate. They will snuggle up and ask to be petted, or scratched under the chin. Who can resist a purring cat? If they're not feeling affectionate, cats are generally quite playful. They love to chase balls and feathers, or just about anything dangling from a string, and they especially enjoy playing when their owners are participating in the game. Contrary to popular opinion, cats can be trained. Using rewards and punishments, just like with a dog, a cat can be trained to avoid unwanted behavior or perform tricks. Cats may even learn to fetch!

*Secondly, cats are civilized members of the household.* Unlike dogs, cats do not bark or make other loud noises. Most cats don't even meow very often. They generally lead a quiet existence. Cats also don't often have "accidents." Mother cats train their kittens to use the litter box, and most cats will use it without fail from that time on. Even stray cats usually understand the concept when shown the box and will use it regularly. Cats do have claws, and owners must make provision for this. A tall scratching post in a favorite cat area of the house will often keep the cat content to leave the furniture alone. As a last resort, of course, cats can be declawed.

*Lastly, one of the most attractive features of cats as house pets is their ease of care.* Cats do not have to be walked. They get plenty of exercise in the house as they play, and they do their business in the litter box. Cleaning a litter box is a quick, painless procedure. Cats also take care of their own grooming. Bathing a cat is almost never necessary because under ordinary circumstances cats clean themselves. Cats are actually more particular about personal cleanliness than most people are. In addition, cats can be left home alone for a few hours without fear. Unlike some pets, most cats will not destroy the furnishings when left alone. They are content to go about their usual activities until their owners return.

In conclusion, cats are low maintenance, civilized companions. People who have small living quarters or less time for pet care should appreciate these characteristics of cats. However, many people who have plenty of space and time still opt to have a cat because they love the cat personality. Therefore, in many ways, cats are the ideal house pet.

**Why People Should Not Watch Too Much Television**

Watching television is an experience shared by most adults and children. It is cheap, appealing, and within the reach of the general public. In this way, TV has become an important mass media around the world. Sadly, this resource isn’t used in a way that people could get the best possible benefits from it. The purpose of this essay is to persuade the reader that people shouldn’t watch too much television because the content of many TV programs is not educational; it makes people waste time that could be used in more beneficial activities; and it negatively affects people’s mental development.

The first reason why people shouldn’t watch too much television is because the content of many TV programs is not educational. Nowadays, we can see movies, series, and shows that present scenes of violence, sex, and drugs. This has established wrong concepts among the audience that influence them into having a negative behavior. Moreover, the impact this tendency has on children is worse because they grow up with the idea of a world where women must be slender and blonde to stand out, where problems can only be solved with money and violence, and where wars are inevitable.

The second reason why people shouldn’t watch too much television is because it makes people waste time that could be used in more beneficial activities. The time we spend watching TV could be applied to useful activities like exercise, reading, interacting with friends and family, activities that are a crucial for a healthy lifestyle.

The third reason why people shouldn’t watch too much television is because it negatively affects people’s mental development. According to several scientific studies, watching TV for prolonged periods of time has a negative effect over the intellectual development of children and leads to deterioration of the mental capacity in older people by causing both attention and memory problems in the long term.

In conclusion, people shouldn’t watch too much television because the content of many TV programs is not educational; it makes people waste time that could be used in more beneficial activities; and it affects people’s mental development. However, this doesn’t mean that we should ban TV, but if we are going to watch it, we should do it with moderation. Television is a resource that we should learn to use through the right selection of programs by taking an active and critical attitude towards it.

**3. Focus on writing an introduction:**

**How to write an introduction**

The introduction is the opening paragraph of your essay. There are many different ways of introducing a text, depending on the genre you are writing in. However, good introductions to *persuasive essays* tend to follow a particular pattern.

**An introduction aims to do the following:**

* To catch the reader’s attention and make them interested in reading more
* To clarify what you are going to argue for/against

****

**Three parts of an introduction:**

1: MAKE A HOOK

Open with a hook that catches the reader’s attention. The hook is supposed to make the reader interested in the topic of your essay. There are several ways of doing this, and here are a few examples of hooks:

* **The hook can be a (surprising) piece of information or an anecdote** (a brief, revealing account of an individual person or an incident)**:**

*In 1955 a black woman sparked a huge national movement in the USA just by refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man.*

* **The hook can be an interesting thought/question:**

*Have you ever wondered what it was like to be a teenager 60 years ago?*

* **The hook can be a quote:**

*The famous rap-artist Drake once said: "I was born to make mistakes, not to fake perfection".*

2: EXPLAIN THE HOOK

The hook does not provide much information in itself. You should follow up on your hook and put it in context. This should lead up to point number 3.

3: MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT YOUR ESSAY IS ABOUT

Here you need to include your thesis statement: what is the purpose of your essay?

**Point out the hook, explanation of hook, and thesis statements in the two examples below:**

**Example introduction A:**

"A dog is man's best friend." That common saying may contain some truth, but dogs are not the only animal friend whose companionship people enjoy. For many people, a cat is their best friend. In this essay I will argue that cats make excellent house pets as they are good companions, civilized members of the household, and easy to care for.

**Example introduction B:**

Watching television is an experience shared by most adults and children. It is cheap, appealing, and within the reach of the general public. In this way, TV has become an important mass media around the world. Sadly, this resource isn’t used in a way that people could get the best possible benefits from it. The purpose of this essay is to persuade the reader that people shouldn’t watch too much television because the content of many TV programs is not educational; it makes people waste time that could be used in more beneficial activities; and it negatively affects people’s mental development.

**4. Formal vs. informal language: Writing exercise**

**Formal language vs. informal language**

**Formal language:**

* **Serious topic**
* **Facts**
* **Follows grammatical rules**
* **No contractive forms (can’t, won’t etc)**
* **No smileys**
* **No exclamation points**
* **Based on sources (supposedly)**
* **Ikke bruk I think, I know – one might think, research has shown**

**Informal language:**

**• Contractive forms (can’t, won’t)**

**• Exclamation points and smileys**

**• Do not follow the grammatical rules (sms-language – wazzup?)**

**• Own opinions**

**• Oral language, oral expressions**

**• Looks like a Facebook-message**

**Tasks:**

**a)**

**Look at the two paragraphs below and correctly identify which of the two uses informal language and formal language. Use examples when justifying your views.**

|  |
| --- |
| The example that uses informal language is…. One example of this is… This text is informal because…. The other example, example…. uses formal language because… we can see that here:….. |

**Example 1:**

**Hey gurl have you heard the new song from Carly Rae Jepsen? Love her voice in this. shes such a talented musician. this song is stuck in my head and the video is awesome. OMG Is so cute!!! XDD  I wish i could be like her like for realz.**

**Example 2:**

**Despite the fact that the United States uses the most oil, the world must realize a group effort is required to lessen their oil usage as well. Sure enough, the United States needs to reduce oil consumption. For example, there exists various means at our hands which can lessen our impact on the world such as: solar energy, wind energy, or even water energy.**

**b) Pick one of the paragraphs above and “translate” the text into either informal or formal.**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**5. Brainstorming: thesis statement + arguments**

**6. Assessment Criteria – involvere elevene i å utarbeide vurderingskriterier.**

**Kjennetegn for måloppnåelse:**

**Persuasive essay**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Innhold** | **Tekstoppbygging** | **Språk** |
| **Høy måloppnåelse** | * Du kommer med flere gode argumenter og presenterer dem på en klar,saklig og overbevisende måte * Du evner å forklare hvorfor argumentene dine er gode * Du bruker eventuelle kilder på en god måte | * Du bruker logiske avsnitt * Innledningen introduserer emnet på en svært god måte, der du får frem ditt syn på saken * Du har en konklusjon som sammenfatter budskapet ditt * Svært god sammenheng og flyt i teksten * Variert bruk av tekstbinding * Overskrift som passer godt til temaet | * Svært god og variert setningsbygging * Variert og presist ordforråd * Svært få språklige eller kommunikasjons-forstyrrende feil |
| **Middels måloppnåelse** | * Du får klart frem ditt synspunkt og klarer til en viss grad å formulere og underbygge gode argumenter * Du har minst to argumenter som støtter ditt synspunkt * Du får stort sett klart frem hva du mener | * Du bruker stort sett logiske avsnitt * Teksten er strukturert med en innledning og konklusjon * Teksten har stort sett god sammenheng og flyt * Teksten har enkel tekstbinding | * Noe enkel og lite variert setningsbygging * Mindre variert ordforråd * Noen språklige og kommunikasjons-forstyrrende feil |
| **Lav måloppnåelse** | * Ufullstendig fremstilling av emnet og ditt synspunkt * Mangelfulle eller overflatiske argumenter * Teksten kommuniserer, men på et relativt lavt nivå | * Mangelfull bruk av avsnitt * Noe uferdig tekst, mangler innledning, hoveddel, eller konklusjon * Lite sammenheng i teksten * Manglende tekstbinding | * Enkel setningsbygging, og noen ufullstendige setninger * Lite utviklet ordforråd * Mange språklige og kommunikasjons-forstyrrende feil |

7**. Skriveramme – Introduction:**

**Insert relevant (‘catchy’) title here**

**Introduction: Hook – explanation of hook – thesis statement.**

**Start with a “hook” in the first sentence to catch the reader’s attention. The hook may be a quote, a question, an anecdote or a piece of (interesting) information. Continue with an explanation of the hook, and connect it to your topic. Lastly, write your thesis statement: “In this essay I will argue….”**

**8. Write introduction – teacher feedback**

**9. Skriveramme – main part + conclusion:**

**The middle part: This is where you state and explain your arguments. Write one paragraph for each main argument.**

**“Firstly”,….**

**“Secondly”,…**

**“Thirdly”/”Lastly”,…**

**The conclusion: This is where you summarize your main points in a paragraph, and include a final appeal to the reader.**

**“In conclusion”/”To summarize”,…**

**10. Write first draft – peer feedback: two stars and a wish**

**11. Hand in first draft + self-assessment:**

* 1. Hvordan har du jobbet med dette essayet?
  2. Hva er du mest fornøyd med ved essayet ditt?
  3. Hva synes du har vært det vanskeligste med å skrive essay?
  4. På hvilke områder trenger du mest veiledning?

**12. Teacher feedback – two stars and two wishes**

**13. Write final draft – peer feedback before handing in: linjerespons**

**Linjerespons:**

**The class is divided into two, or smaller groups. While one group gets feedback, the other groups leave the room. The group stands shoulder to shoulder in a line, while the teacher sits in front of them. Each student reads a section of his/her essay and gets feedback from the students at either side of him/her. Feedback can consist of 1 positive thing + 1 thing that can be improved. The teacher can also give feedback on the text if he/she wishes.**

**Great exercise to develop studen’t metalanguage on text writing.**

**14. Teacher gives feedback on final draft using the assessment criteria. Grades are optional.**