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Department of English

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**Level : L1**

**Module :CWE**

**Lecture 6: Opinion/ Argumentative Paragraph**

1. **Definition**

The argumentative paragraph is a special type of paragraph that **gives reasons**. It is also called opinion paragraph. It usually contains a signal of its purpose in the topic sentence. It may also contain words such as: should or ought to, or words that express a judgment about a thing or idea. The reasons in argumentative paragraphs must be chosen and organized carefully. Facts and statistics should provide strong support **to persuade** or **to convince** someone that a particular opinion or point of view is the right one.

1. **Purpose of Argumentative Writing**

* It tries**to change someone’s mind**
* It is an attempt **to prove a point or defend an opinion**.
* It is also used **to argue in favour** of an opinion.
* It is also used **to encourage others to adopt our views**, more than just an explanation of a subject.

1. **Organization of an Argumentative Paragraph:**

The argumentative/ opinion paragraph begins with an argumentative point, stated in a focused topic sentence in which the writer gives **his opinion either by agreeing or disagreeing with the topic**. The writer presents an opinion and tries to persuade readers that the opinion is a good one by providing strong reasons to defend his opinion. The argumentative/ opinion paragraph is organized as follows:

1. **Topic Sentence:**

The topic sentence introduces the topic and states the writer’s opinion about the topic.

1. **Supporting Sentences:**

* The middle sentences give reasons that support the writer’s opinion.
* Writers often use facts, explanations, and personal experiences to support their opinion.

1. **Concluding Sentence:**

* The last sentence restates the writer’s opinion in different words.
* It also comments on the opinion in some way.
* The concluding sentence may summarize the main reasons for the writer’s opinion.

1. **An Example of an Argumentative Paragraph:**

Topic: Do epidemiological studies have limitations?

The following paragraph begins with **an opinion** and **some reasons** to support the opinion.

Epidemiological studies have severe limitations. Firstly, such studies can seldom be made in adherence to all the requirements of experimental science since the ‘objects’ being studied are people and they come with a variety of behaviours and appetites. Secondly, the study can take place only in the conditions that have occurred and not in a laboratory re- creation of them where certain factors can be varied systematically to determine their influence and effect. Most seriously, epidemiological studies can take decades to be completed, so that by the time a positive result becomes evident, large numbers of workers may have been damaged or injured irreversibly. Hence, the identification of occupational disease cannot be allowed to rest on epidemiology alone —in effect, to a policy of ‘counting the victims’. It must be backed by experimentation and other methods of predicting the likely health impact on workers of new chemicals, processes or technologies.

Source: <https://www.slideshare.net/AMANDALEONLEAL/the-paragraph-62495806>

**Exercise 1**

Read the following text and answer the questions.

|  |
| --- |
| Owning a Car  Should a person own a car? This is an important question. In a large urban area, there are some good reasons for owning a car. First,a car allows a person to move around freely. With a car, there is no need to check a bus schedule or wait for a train. With a car, a person can go to the mosque five times a day to pray and attend to the meeting every week. Second, a car is a comfortable way to travel, especially in the rainy season. In bad weather, the driver stays warm and dry, while the bus driver might have to stand in the rain………………………… |

1. Identify the topic sentence of the argumentative paragraph.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. There are two reasons that support the topic sentence (reasons to support the opinion),add two other reasons to defend your opinion in order to convince the reader about your point of view.

-The first reason:

First,a car allows a person to move around freely. With a car, there is no need to check a bus schedule or wait for a train. With a car, a person can go to the mosque five times a day to pray and attend to the meeting every week.

-The second reason:

Second, a car is a comfortable way to travel, especially in the rainy season. In bad weather, the driver stays warm and dry, while the bus driver might have to stand in the rain.

-The third reason:

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

-The fourth reason:

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….............

1. Write your own concluding sentence:

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Exercise 2**

Complete the following table by giving three reasons or more about any place (city, village……) that you think it provides a good quality of life.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ideal place to live | Reasons to support your opinion |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |

**Exercise 3**

Topic: “There are many reasons why people don’t smoke.”Write an argumentative paragraph about 10 lines including the following steps:

1. Write a topic sentence that states your opinion.
2. Augment your supporting sentences with reasons to convince people to avoid smoking.
3. End your paragraph with a concluding sentence that states the same opinion in your topic sentence (keep your opinion) using other words.

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