

To present arguments and information from different viewpoints

Discussion/Argumentative

Do We Still Need Zoos?

clear statement of what is going to be discussed

Zoos were originally set up so that people could see and learn about wild animals from distant lands. As more people became city-dwellers, never seeing animals in the wild, zoos began to house local creatures too. However, in today's world, are zoos really necessary?

mainly present tense

argument supported by examples and/or evidence

Since people can now **see** any sort of wild animal in its natural **habitat**, simply by tuning in to a TV programme or buying a video, some animal rights **activists** claim that zoos are out of date. **They** argue that it is cruel to capture animals, transport them long distances, and then keep them caged up, simply for the entertainment of human beings. Captive animals often develop '**zoochosis**' - abnormal behaviour like rocking or swaying - which indicates that they are bored and unhappy in their prison-like conditions.

3rd person

passive voice - formal

opposing argument supported by examples and/or evidence

On the other hand, there is a huge difference between watching an animal on screen and seeing it in real life. It could be argued that visiting a zoo is educational, often increasing people's concern for wildlife and **conservation**, which is of great importance in today's developing - and often overdeveloped - world. **Indeed**, sometimes the only way to save an **endangered** species **may** be to arrange for it to breed in captivity. Behind the scenes, zoos also provide scientists with opportunities to research into animal behaviour: modern zoos can **therefore** be much better planned than old ones, providing animals with carefully designed **enclosures** appropriate to their needs.

conditional

formal words

concluding statement usually comes down on one side

It seems, **then**, that there are still arguments for retaining zoos. These should, **however**, be carefully planned with the animals' welfare in mind: in the modern world, there is no excuse for keeping animals in cramped or cruel conditions.

connectives help to link sentences and paragraphs



Discussion/Argumentative Writing - Upper Key Stage 2

- Does my opening statement introduce the issue under discussion to the reader and tell them some of the **background**? *The issue of whether children should wear school uniform has been debated for many years.*
- Is my writing organised into paragraphs, with a **key point from each argument** supported by evidence, examples or illustrations?
- Do the paragraph breaks help the reader see **both sides of the argument**?
- Does my final paragraph reach a conclusion, based on the arguments?
- Have I used a formal tone and some passive sentences? *It is believed that ...It can be said that ...*
- Have I used connectives to link or differentiate the points? *On the other hand, finally, also, furthermore, whereas, similarly.*
- Have I used **conditionals** like *if, then, might, may, could, would* to suggest possibilities to the reader? *It could be said that it is only adults that like school uniform because they don't have to wear it!*
- Have I used generalisation? *Most workers, all children.*