

KS: To identify the features of a balanced argument

**Clouds task:** If you can print this text – colour code the key and then highlight the different features. If you are using your workbook – Use the features in the key as subheadings and write some examples under each one (colour code too if you like)

### Should children be allowed to keep animals as pets?

Thousands of children around the world keep pets in their family home, ranging from goldfish, cats and guinea pigs to exotic reptiles. These animals often become one of the family. Yet, it has been argued that children are unable to provide the care that these animals require. Should children really be allowed to keep their own pets?

Some people think that there are many benefits for allowing children to look after a pet since it is a good way to help children learn about life. For example, they can become responsible for looking after another living thing and this allows them to become a more rounded person. Also, many children argue that they get a great deal of pleasure from playing with an animal. Doctors claim that they help to cheer you up when you are feeling down and give you somebody to play with if you are feeling lonely.

On the other hand, many people feel that children are not ready to look after animals properly. Critics argue that children today are so busy with other activities that they do not have the time needed to care for a pet. Consequently, it is often left up to the adults in the family to look after the pets. Furthermore, a busy family life can mean that pets get neglected. The RSPCA reports that some animals are left all day in a house without seeing anyone.

While there are rare occasions when pets are neglected by those meant to care for them, the majority of pets live in happy, loving homes. In a modern family, it would seem that rather than solely being the responsibility of children, the whole family needs to be on board to bring up an animal and in doing so, keeping pets can teach children valuable life skills.

#### **Key:**

Introduction	Formal Language of debate
Arguments for	Arguments against
Facts and evidence	Connecting words and phrases
Conclusion	Conjunctions e.g. and, but, so, because

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**Moons/Stars Task:** If you can print this text – colour code the checklist and then highlight the different features. If you are using your workbook – Use the features in the checklist as subheadings and write some examples under each one (colour code too if you like)

### Should children be allowed to stay in at break times?

Hearing the school bell and seeing groups of children rush out to play is a familiar scene in schools up and down the country. Yet, a group of children at Willow Tree School feel they should have the right to stay in at break times if they want to. This has prompted considerable debate between staff and students at the school.

Some children claim that it is unfair to make children go outside on a cold, wet day. Statistics have shown that in the colder months, cold and flu viruses can spread between people 80% more. In addition, some children find going outside during break times particularly difficult to cope with. It has been suggested that teachers should supervise children if they choose to be indoors at playtime. While some people believe this is out of the teacher's job description, others think that this will give teachers an extra opportunity to get to know their class in more sociable activities.

Conversely, other children argue that children shouldn't stay indoors at break because they have to be supervised at all times and if there were children inside and outside this would not be possible. Additionally, the budget for lunchtime stuff is already being stretched and there certainly wouldn't be enough money to employ extra staff just to satisfy these children. Furthermore, scientists have proven that fresh air is needed to help the brain function at its best. If children were allowed to stay cooped up inside all day their concentration would suffer.

Overall, it is important that children enjoy their lunchtimes; however they must be kept safe and supervised at all times. Children need fresh air and exercise for their health and teachers need a break to prepare, reflect and relax. Nonetheless, the fundamental reason why children cannot stay in at break times is because there is just not enough money to provide supervision.

#### Structural Features

Introduce the topic in general terms.

Arguments for with evidence.

Arguments against with evidence

Conclusion - summary with phrasing of personal opinion.

#### Language Features

Modal verbs - show possibility  
e.g. could, should, would

Formal language of debate

Evidence e.g. statistics to support argument.

Rhetorical questions.

Connecting words/phrases