



ARGUMENTATIVE TEXTS

Argumentation is the process of supporting or weakening another statement whose validity is in question.

1.- What is the usual order of presenting an argument?

- **Introduction:** *"Race prejudice is said to be the main cause of violence in big cities".*
- **Explanation of the argumentation presented.**
" There ore two different approaches to / views on this issue: the one arguing that racial prejudice is the source of violent acts, and therefore violence would hardly exist if these prejudices were eradicated , and that one claiming that there 're no prejudices but the conviction that people who belong to other races are the real cause of violence on the streets " .
- **Proofs supporting the argument** (as a matter of fact; . Furthermore; what is more),
"... as a matter of fact, those places where there 's no existence of immigrants "are clearly more peaceful and quiet; furthermore, no one wants, for instance, gipsy settlements near their neighbourhood. "
- **Refutation** (even though..; far from what is generally believed; it cannot be forgotten ; we should avoid simplification as there are a lot of other things to be considered).
" ... far from what it's generally believed violence in big cities existed long before the immigration or race phenomenon; besides, minorities are usually the "escape-goat" of the ruling elites in order to hide their own failure as these minorities are defenceless, won't rebel and are completely subdued"
- **Conclusion** (in brief; in short, In conclusion, to conclude; to summarise)
" In short, the problem of race prejudice does not have a very clear basis but the truth is that those being victims of this prejudice will not have the chance to de/end themselves as there are many things they 're deprived of, including the mass media".

2.- Other patterns:

- **Zig- Zag** (giving pros and cons).
- **One-sided argument** (with no counterargument)
- **Eclectic approach** (the author selects the most important views on the subjects).
- **Opposition's argument first.**
- **The "other side questioned" pattern .**

3.- What must we know to produce argumentation?

Different ways (by means of connectors and expressions) to show :

- Reason, cause and purpose,
- Adding information and giving examples.
- Sequence or listing arguments or points,
- Personal opinion.
- Contrast and comparison.
- Conclusion.
- Rephrasing.



LINGUISTIC FUNCTIONS:

1.- Listing points (enumerar)

- First/ Firstly/First of all.
- Second/ Secondly
- Third/thirdly
- Finally/ Lastly/ last but not least.

2.- Giving examples

- For example
- For instance
- such as (como, tales como)

3.- Giving personal opinions

- I agree with (sth or sb)
- I agree that.....
- I agree strongly
- up to a point / to a certain extent
- I disagree = I don't agree
- To my mind / In my opinion
- / In my view / From my point of view.

4.- Making generalizations

- In general
- Broadly speaking=Roughly speaking
- Basically

5.- Expressing contrasts

- But
- However=Nevertheless (sin embargo)
- Whereas=While (mientras)
- On the one hand.....On the other hand
- Although/ even though +-Clause
- Despite = In spite of + Ving + noun.
- Despite/ In spite of the fact + Clause.

6.- Giving conclusions

- In short
- To sum up -In conclusion

7.- Rephrasing ideas

- In other words.
- That is to say
- To make a long story short (colloq)

8.- Saying obvious things

- Obviously/ No doubt
- There is no need to say that.....
- I needn't say that... / Everybody knows....

9.- Adding extra Information

- Besides: además
- Furthermore: Es más,...
- What's more: Es más
- In addition (to this),...

10.- Expressing cause

- Because / as (conjunción)+ Clause
- Because of + Noun
- Due to (prep)
- Owing to + Ving-
- This is why + Clause
- (have) a reason + Inf: una razón para

11. Expressing consequence or result

- so + adj/adv + **that**.....
- **so much /so many** + noun + that.....
- **such** (a) + (adj) + noun + **that**
- As a consequence ...
- As a result , como consecuencia

- Consequently

- So: por lo tanto; por consiguiente
- Therefore/ Thus: por lo tanto

12.- Expressing purpose (finalidad)

- In order to
- To +Infinitive (mismo sujeto)
- So as (not) to
- so that/ so + Clause (normalmente distinto Sujeto)

13.- Expressing probability

- probably: probablemente
- To be likely to: ser probably
- In all probability:con toda probabilidad
- There's a good chance that: es muy probable

14.- Expressing a condition

- If: si
- Unless: a menos que
- as long as/provided/providing: con tal que
- Otherwise: de lo contrario.
- On the condition that. Con la condición de que
- In case: por si acaso



TRANSLATE INTO ENGLISH

1.- En primer tú no sabes qué duro es nuestro trabajo; en segundo lugar, no tienes experiencia laboral y para terminar, eres demasiado joven para ese puesto.

First, you don't know how hard our work is; secondly, you haven't got work experience and finally, you're too young for that position

2., Por ejemplo, debes dirigir un equipo de 100 personas y deberías tener distintas habilidades, tales como paciencia, actitud positiva y voluntad de solucionar cada problema.

For instance, you must lead a team of one hundred people, and you should have various skills, such as patience, a positive attitude and will to solve any problem

3.- Estoy de acuerdo con esa afirmación hasta cierto punto. Desde mi punto de vista las cosas no son tan sencillas como puede parecer. Si todo fuera tan sencillo, la vida sería mucho mejor

I agree with that statement to a certain extent. From my point of view, things are not as easy as they may seem. If everything were so easy, life would be much better.

4.- Por lo general las mujeres son más sensibles que los hombres; sin embargo, conozco a algunas mujeres que parecen piedras y a algunos hombres llorar mientras veían una película romántica o una canción de amor.

Broadly speaking / In general, women are more sensitive than men; however, I've met some women who look like stones and (I've also seen) also some men crying while they were watching a romantic film or while listening to a love song

5.- A pesar de los inconvenientes, y aunque puede que tengamos muchas dificultades, estoy decidido a tomar el riesgo. En mi opinión, vale la pena intentarlo

In spite of the problems, and although we may run into a lot of difficulties, I'm determined to take a risk. In my opinion, it's worth trying it

6.- Como conclusión, todo el mundo busca la felicidad y la gente hará tantas cosas como necesite para conseguirla. Ser feliz es el objetivo que todos nosotros compartimos.

To sum up, everyone looks for happiness, and people will do as many things as they have to/ whatever it takes to get it. Being happy / Happiness is the aim we all share.

7.- La vida está llena de tragedias que jamás sucedieron; es decir, muy a menudo tenemos miedo y pensamos que lo peor nos va a pasar a nosotros o a nuestros seres queridos

Life is full of tragedies that never happened; in other words, we tend to be afraid and think that the worst things / the most terrible things are going to happen to us or to our beloved ones

.- No hace falta ni decir que todo el mundo se emociona cuando sus sueños se hacen realidad y es obvio que tarde o temprano algunos de nuestros sueños se cumplen

There's no need to say that everyone gets excited/moved when their dreams come true, and obviously, sooner or later, some of them do (come true)

9.- No tienes razón cuando dices que no hay gente mala y perversa; además, no tienes que ir muy lejos para descubrir que están por todas partes

You're wrong when you say there's no such thing as evil people; besides, you don't have to get very far to find out that they're everywhere

10.- Debido a la crisis económica hay mucho paro y la gente está muy preocupada por su futuro y su trabajo. Esto es por lo que el gobierno y los partidos políticos están discutiendo qué medidas se deben tomar para poner fin a esta situación.

Due to the economic crisis, there's a lot of unemployment and people are very worried about their future and their job. This is why the government and the political parties are discussing what measures must be taken to put an end to this situation.

11.- Inglaterra es un país tan rico y tiene tantos recursos económicos que muchas empresas quieren invertir su dinero allí

England is such a rich country and has so many economic resources that a lot of companies want to invest their money there.



ARGUMENTATIVE TOPICS

- Advantages and disadvantages of being an only child.
- Advantages and disadvantages of being a working mother.
- Childhood is certainly not the happiest time of your life.
- Capital punishment is the only way to deter criminals.
- Examinations have a very bad influence on education.
- Parents are too permissive with their children nowadays.
- The space race is the world's biggest money waster.
- Pros and cons of living in a large modern city.
- Advertising performs a useful service to the community.