Text Structure and Language Features: Example 2

Text Structure - Discussion

Statement of issue

Case against - argument, elaboration

Argument, elaboration

Case for - argument, elaboration

Conclusion - includes summation and/or recommendation

COMPUTERS MAKE OUR LIVES WORSE, NOT BETTER – DISCUSS

It has been said that life is getting harder, not easier. Some people would argue that computers have many everyday uses which make our lives easy. In addition, electronic communications offer great convenience for our lives. On the other hand, others would argue that the world we live in is becoming more and more controlled and unhealthy because of computers.

One reason that computers make our lives easier is that they are so useful that business would stop without them. They can perform simple and complex calculations, reserve aeroplane tickets, keep bank accounts, rent cars and save great amounts of time by doing routine, uninteresting jobs which take people a long time. Using computers can free us for more complicated and interesting projects.

In addition, advanced communication makes the world smaller and smaller. People from all over the world can talk to each other by telephone or email. People can stay at home and keep themselves informed about science and politics by watching television or listening to the radio.

On the other hand, some people would argue that computers are making our lives worse, by threatening our privacy and our health. They are a threat to privacy because they can be programmed to monitor through a modem almost everything we do. They can track how much we spend, where we spend it and when. In addition, many children and adults are spending too much time in front of television, video and playstations and this is making them mentally and physically unhealthy.

In conclusion, it is certain that computers do make life better not worse because they can be used in many good ways as long we can stay in control of them.

Adapted from the text of Linda Lin.

Language Features:
Use of present tense is predominant

Use of word chains to build topic information, e.g. communication, email, television, radio

Use of relating verbs, e.g. Life is getting harder not easier.

Use of saying and thinking verbs, e.g. said, argue

Use of passive voice, e.g. can be programmed

Use of modality, e.g. would, can

Use of general nouns, e.g. communications, computers

Use of technical language, e.g. email, modem

Use of adjectives, e.g. everyday, advanced, complex, routine, uninteresting

Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. people from all over the world

Use of adverbial phrases, e.g. to the radio, in people's lives

Use of connectives to build point and counterpoint, e.g. on the other hand

Use of text connectives to structure argument, e.g. In addition, In conclusion

Use of evaluative language, e.g. computers do make life better

Use of beginning of sentence to focus reader's attention, e.g. one reason, in addition

Use of empty subject, e.g. It has been said.

Use of compound and complex sentences