

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 2

Text Structure - Discussion

Title

Background information

Argument point, elaboration

Argument point, elaboration

Reinforcement of position of statement

SHOULD NEW ZEALAND STAY NUCLEAR FREE?

There is a lot of discussion at present about the issue of whether New Zealand should remain nuclear free. Our nuclear free policy does not presently allow the building of nuclear power stations, nor does it allow nuclear powered ships to enter our ports. On the one hand, supporters of reversing this policy give a number of reasons for allowing nuclear powered ships back into New Zealand waters, while others are still strongly opposed to this. On the other hand, others believe that nuclear powered ships are still a risk to the environment and that they are morally unacceptable.

Those who argue that we should reverse the policy claim that there is no risk of nuclear accidents with new shipping designs. They also believe that reversing our nuclear free policy would help us to improve our defence capability because we could do naval exercises with the USA and other countries which have nuclear powered vessels.

In support of their position, they state that New Zealand is not actually "nuclear free" because we have irradiation plants for food and also use radioactive materials in our hospitals as part of the diagnosis and treatment of many illnesses.

However, there is also strong opposition to reversing our nuclear free policy. These people argue that we cannot be certain that there will never be a nuclear accident involving a ship, so we should not take the chance. They point to the shipping accidents in Russian waters, where two nuclear powered submarines have sunk recently, with their nuclear reactors left at the bottom of the sea. Nobody can be sure that these will not cause terrible damage in the future by leaking radioactive material into the environment.

Furthermore, many are morally opposed to nuclear powered vessels, because they believe that these ships may also have nuclear weapons on board. They do not believe that New Zealand should be allied with anyone who would use these destructive weapons.

There are too many risks and too many moral objections to changing our nuclear free policy. Let's keep New Zealand nuclear free.

Language Features

Use of present tense and future tense to express possibility e.g would

Use of word chains to build topic information, e.g. policy, nuclear powered ships, radioactive, nuclear

Use of relating verbs, e.g. is

Use of action verbs, e.g. sink, do

Use of modality, e.g. should, would, could, might, can

Use of general nouns, e.g. nuclear reactor

Use of technical language, e.g. nuclear, radioactive

Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. Those who argue that we should reverse the policy

Use of adverbial phrases, e.g. in Russian waters

Use of conjunctions, e.g. because, while

Use of text connectives to structure argument, e.g. However, furthermore

Use of evaluative and persuasive language, e.g. terrible, Let's keep New Zealand nuclear free.

Use of beginning of sentence to focus the reader's attention, e.g. firstly, furthermore, many are morally opposed and use of complex and compound sentences

Use of reference/facts to support argument, e.g. shipping accidents in Russian waters

Use of empty subject, e.g. There is also strong opposition