

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 2

Text Structure - Argument

ARE EXAMS THE BEST WAY TO JUDGE STUDENTS?

Statement of issue

There are many advantages to using exams to judge student performance; however, there are many disadvantages as well. In this essay reasons for and against exams will be discussed.

Case for - argument, elaboration

Firstly, exams could be seen as the best way to judge students because they are fair. This is because in exams students have to work alone. They can't copy from others or get someone else to do it for them.

Argument, elaboration

Secondly, exams show how much students have learned. All students have the same questions, the same amount of time, the same conditions and they can't get help from anybody else. Exams are a better way to judge students than assignments, where somebody else can help or even do the whole assignment.

Case against - argument, elaboration

On the other hand, there are significant problems associated with exams. Exams don't really show whether the students have understood their whole course or not. Some students have memorised the information, but they don't understand the meaning well. Exams only test one skill, that is memory. School should develop other skills too such as the ability to work with other students. Exams don't judge such skills.

Argument, elaboration

Another reason why exams may not be the best way to judge students is that some students who do not suffer nerves can perform well, while other students who suffer from nerves can't do their best in exams. For these students the exams cannot show how much they have really learnt.

Conclusion - includes summary and recommendation

It can be seen that there are reasons for and against using exams to judge student performance. Teachers should use a variety of ways to judge students, such as assignments, group work and oral presentations as well as exams. That would be fair for all students.

Language Features

Use of present tense as main tense

Use of word chains to build topic information, e.g. exams, assignments, presentations

Use of action verbs, e.g. perform, judge, copy

Use of saying and thinking verbs, e.g. discussed, judge

Use of passive voice, e.g. be seen, be discussed

Use of modality, e.g. can, should

Use of adjectives, e.g. fair, better, significant

Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. ability to work with other students

Use of adverbial phrases, e.g. in this essay, in exams

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

Use of text connectives to structure argument, e.g. firstly, secondly

Use of evaluative language, e.g. better, suffer

Use of persuasive language, e.g. can be seen, would be fair, should use a variety of ways

Use of beginning of sentence to focus reader's attention, e.g. on the other hand

Use of empty subject, e.g. There are many advantages.

Use of complex and compound sentences