



Writing introductions & conclusions

Practical 1

Marine Parks

The issue of whether we should allow marine parks to stay open has been widely debated in our community recently. It is an important issue because it concerns fundamental moral and economic questions about the way we use our native wildlife. A variety of different arguments have been put forward about this issue. This essay will consider arguments for having marine parks and point to some of the problems with these views. It will then put forward reasons for the introduction of laws which prohibit these unnecessary and cruel institutions.

It has been argued that dolphin parks provide the only opportunity for much of the public to see marine mammals (Smith, 1992). Most Australians, *so this argument goes*, live in cities and never get to see these animals. *It is claimed that* marine parks allow the average Australian to appreciate our marine wildlife. *However, as* Smith *states*, dolphins, whales and seals can be viewed in the wild at a number of places on the Australian coast. *In fact*, there are more places where they can be seen in the wild than places where they can be seen in captivity. *Moreover*, most Australians would have to travel less to get to these locations than they would to get to the marine parks on the Gold Coast. *In addition*, places where there are wild marine mammals do not charge an exorbitant entry fee - they are free.

Dr. Alison Lane, the director of the Cairns Marine Science Institute, *contends that* we need marine parks for scientific research (The Age, 19.2.93). She *argues that* much of our knowledge of marine mammals comes from studies which were undertaken at marine parks. The knowledge which is obtained at marine parks, *so this argument goes*, can be useful for planning for the conservation of marine mammal species. *However, as* Jones (1991) *explains*, park research is only useful for understanding captive animals and is not useful for learning about animals in the wild. Dolphin and whale biology changes in marine park conditions. Their diets are different, they have significantly lower life spans and they are more prone to disease. *In addition*, marine mammals in dolphin parks are trained and this means that their patterns of social behavior are changed. Therefore research undertaken at marine parks is generally not reliable.

It is the contention of the Marine Park Owners Association *that* marine parks attract a lot of foreign tourists (The Sun-Herald 12.4.93). *This position goes on to assert that* these tourists spend a lot of money, increasing our foreign exchange earnings and assisting our national balance of payments. *However*, foreign tourists would still come to Australia if the parks were closed down. *Indeed*, surveys of overseas tourists show that they come here for a variety of other reasons and not to visit places like Seaworld (The Age, Good Weekend 16.8.93). Tourists come here to see our native wildlife in its natural environment and not to see it in cages and cement pools. They can see animals in those condition in their own countries *Furthermore*, we should be promoting our beautiful natural environment to tourists and not the ugly concrete marine park venues.

Dolphin parks are unnecessary and cruel. The dolphins and whales in these parks are kept in very small, cramped ponds, whereas in the wild they are used to roaming long distances across the seas. *Furthermore*, the concrete walls of the pools interfere with the animals' sonar systems of communication. *In addition*, keeping them in pools is a terrible restriction of the freedom of fellow creatures who may have very high levels of intelligence



and a sophisticated language ability. *Moreover*, there are many documented cases of marine mammals helping humans who are in danger at sea or helping fisherman with their work.

In conclusion, these parks should be closed, or at the very least, no new animals should be captured for marine parks in the future. Our society is no longer prepared to tolerate unnecessary cruelty to animals for science and entertainment. If we continue with our past crimes against these creatures we will be remembered as cruel and inhuman by the generations of the future.

Bibliography

The Age, 19.2.93

The Age Good Weekend, 16.8.93

Jones, G. (1991). The Myths about Animal Research in Marine Parks. In *Scientific Australian*. Vol. 12, No 3.

Smith, H. (1992). Marine Parks: Good for Business, Good for Australia. In *Leisure Business Review*. Vol. 24, No. 4

The Sun-Herald, 12.4.93

<http://www.santarosa.edu/~dpeterso/permanenthtml/tutorial/tutorialframe.htm>

Task 1: The parts of an introduction

A simple introduction to an argumentative assignment has four parts. Read the following description of the parts. Then circle the sentences in the introduction above which cover each part and write the number for each part in the margin next to it, e.g. for the first part draw a circle around the sentence(s) that introduce(s) the topic and write "1" in the margin next to it.

1. Introduces the topic
2. States why the topic is important
3. States that there is a difference of opinion about this topic
4. Describes how the assignment will be structured and clearly states the writer's main thesis.

Task 2: Ordering sentences in an introduction

Now put the following sentences into the correct order. They make up the introduction to an argumentative essay about the issue of whether Australia should become a republic.

- a. As a result, the issue is a very controversial one and has attracted a lot of debate.
- b. It will then put forward a number of reasons why Australia should change to a republican form of government.
- c. The question of whether we maintain the monarchy is not merely a legal detail but is intrinsically linked to the way we perceive ourselves as a distinct nation of people with its own identity and culture.
- d. Since the time of federation, Australia has been a constitutional monarchy with the Queen of the United Kingdom as its head of state.
- e. This essay will consider some of the arguments for maintaining the monarch as head of state and will outline some of the problems with this position.



f. However, today many Australians are questioning whether this form of government is still relevant or appropriate and are suggesting that we move towards the establishment of a republic.

Task 3: The parts of a concluding paragraph

A simple conclusion to an argumentative assignment has three parts. Read the following description of the parts. Then circle the sentences in the concluding paragraph in the essay about marine mammals which cover each part and write the number for each part in the margin next to it, e.g. for the first part draw a circle around the sentence(s) that restate(s) the main conclusion (thesis) and write "1" in the margin next to it. The three parts to a conclusion:

1. Restates the main conclusion
2. Presents one or two general sentences which accurately summarize your arguments which support the main conclusion
3. Provides a general warning of the consequences of not following the conclusion that you put forward and/or a general statement of how the community will benefit from following that conclusion

Task 4: Ordering sentences in a conclusion

Now put the following sentences into the correct order. They make up the conclusion to another argumentative essay. The main conclusion of this essay is that the government should spend more money on childcare places for the children of parents who study or work.

- a. If we fail to meet our obligations in this area, we will be sacrificing our present and future well-being merely in order to appease outdated notions of family life and to achieve short-term financial savings.
- b. In conclusion, it is essential that we support the nation's parents and children by funding more childcare places.
- c. Only in this way can we provide the valuable learning environments that young Australians need while, at the same time, utilizing the skills of all productive members of our society.
- d. The entire national community will then be enriched economically, socially and culturally.



Practical 2

Now choose 2 of the essay topics below and write an introduction paragraph for each of them. Number of words per paragraph: between 75 and 100.

Important note: Look at the scoring rubric for introductory paragraphs so that you know what the teachers will pay attention to when correcting and marking your writing.

Essay topic 1:

Downloading music is right and, therefore, should not be restricted nor penalized. Discuss.

Essay topic 2:

The death penalty should be administered for particularly atrocious crimes. Discuss.

Essay topic 3:

Animals should not be used for scientific research. Discuss.

Essay topic 4:

Homosexual marriages are as normal as heterosexual marriages and, therefore, should also be as legal as these are. Discuss.

Essay topic 5:

All graduates in English Philology must take one or two gap years during or at the end of their degree to travel the world and increase their maturity and global awareness. Discuss.