

Tuesday 19th May

L.K: To develop a balanced argument

A balanced argument is where you look at both sides of evidence and conclude with the strongest or most compelling side. For example, you could be trying to decide whether or not to have lunch early. On one hand, you're hungry now and that feeling would go away. But, if you ate early, then you would surely be hungry later!

Below are two opinions about zoos from two people who believe different things about zoos.

"For" zoos

"People don't understand the good that a zoo does. There are education centres for school visits that provide people with a chance to see animals that they'd otherwise never see in the wild. Zoos are also really important for research and conservation efforts too. A lot of money is invested in preserving natural habitats and zoos play an important role in looking after endangered animals."

"Against" zoos

"These horrendous places should stop kidding themselves by suggesting that zoo visits are educational. Most visitors don't spend much time reading the information boards – they just look at the animals and move on. Animals often show signs of stress at being forced to live in captivity, many are made to live in unnatural climates and there's just something wrong about forcing animals to live a life where people stare at them all day entertainment."

Now can you summarise the key points that they are trying to make in bullet-point form? What are their main arguments here?

Now that you have some information about the two sides of the argument, who do you think is right? Why do you think this? Write a short paragraph where you argue your point. Make sure to include your opinion!

Today's Task

You have some information about zoos and have summarised the key points that two people have made for and against them. You need to use these bullet points to create a separate paragraph for and against zoos. Then, you can edit and improve the paragraph you created earlier with your own opinion and add that on to the end.

To summarise what you should have created:

- A paragraph "For" zoos
- A paragraph "Against" zoos
- A paragraph containing your own opinions.