

LPF Writing Exemplar

Residents of the Public Housing Estates Should Not Be Allowed to Keep Pet Dogs

Task Description

Students studied news clippings about the advantages and disadvantages of keeping pet dogs for a class debate contest. Students formed teams of three and each speaker of the team wrote a debate speech for the contest.

Preparation

Before students wrote the debate speech, they learnt about how to refute by putting forward arguments and counter-arguments. They then discussed in their teams the pros and cons of keeping pet dogs and listed the points in a table. With reference to the table, they predicted the possible arguments of their opponents and discussed how to refute them.

Learning Outcomes: ATM6

| Content | Organisation | Language and Style |
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| ATM6 Writing texts to convey information, ideas, personal experiences and opinions on familiar topics with elaboration | ATM6 Linking ideas quite coherently throughout the text, and showing appropriate overall organisation of ideas | ATM6 Using a range of generally appropriate and accurate language forms and functions, and generally appropriate tone, style, register and features of some text types |
| <p>The student can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compare different points of views with supporting details, e.g. dogs being friendly and loyal to some people but being dangerous to others justify the arguments with examples and evidence, e.g. citing examples of aggressive dogs and the case of a dog attack leading to the death of a baby discuss and explain ideas with elaboration, e.g. explanations of why dogs may cause hygienic problems | <p>The student can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish links within and across paragraphs using a range of cohesive devices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adverbs indicating contrast, e.g. 'Yet', 'However' adverbs or adverb phrases indicating sequence, e.g. 'First of all', 'Secondly' adverbs or adverb phrases indicating addition, e.g. 'Moreover', 'On top of these' establish a clear focus in paragraphs using a topic sentence, e.g. 'Secondly, dogs are not only dirty but also dangerous and frightening.' arrange ideas in a paragraph following the structure 'opposing argument + counter-argument', e.g. in Paragraph 3, introducing | <p>The student can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use a range of vocabulary related to the hygienic problems brought about by keeping dogs, e.g. 'smelly', 'unhygienic', 'parasites', 'lice', 'viruses' use correct word collocations, e.g. 'give rise to', 'contagious disease', 'drive your appetite away', 'spark health problems' use well-chosen words or expressions, e.g. 'aggressive', 'fierce', 'scare', 'pose a threat' to describe why dogs are 'dangerous and frightening'; 'the bones of contention' and 'nightmare' to highlight the potential conflicts between neighbours use rhetorical questions to provoke thinking, e.g. 'However, should those who suffer from dog keeping be respected? Why can't they enjoy a clean, safe and quiet living environment?' |

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| | <p>the opposing argument that dogs are kept for security reason, which is followed by the counter-argument that dogs may be a threat to people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • structure the text coherently using an organisational framework, e.g. introducing the motion in Paragraph 1, putting forward the arguments in Paragraphs 2-4 and ending with an appeal for support in Paragraph 6. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish a close relationship with the reader and involve them in the discussion through using personal pronouns ‘we’, ‘you’ and ‘us’ • present opposing arguments by referring to the views of a particular person or group of people, e.g. ‘Our dear opponents will no doubt argue that...’, and by impersonal expressions, e.g. ‘It is also believed that...’ • use boosters to add force to the arguments, e.g. ‘surely’, ‘Undoubtedly’, ‘Obviously’ |
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Ladies and gentlemen,

Today's motion is that "Residents of the public housing estates should not be allowed to keep pet dogs." I'm speaking for the motion. There're several compelling reasons why you should support this motion and I'd like to share with you now.

First of all, it's crystal clear that keeping pet dogs is extremely unhygienic, especially in the crowded public housing estate. Our honourable opponents will no doubt argue that pet dogs will become clean if we wash and tidy them up frequently. Yet, dogs remain dirty and smelly no matter how you clean them. Moreover, it's inevitable that dogs contain some parasites such as lice and viruses. These give rise to contagious diseases that may infect the residents. Besides, some dog keepers are irresponsible. It's not surprising to find that everywhere in the public housing estates, say, stairs, corridors, and concourses abound in dogs' droppings. They're disgusting and intolerable and surely drive your appetite away. Worse still, these droppings may contain bacteria and attract flies or cockroaches. All these spark health problems and contaminate the hygiene of the estates. If you were living there, do you think you could put up with all these hygienic problems brought by dogs? So, all of you will not agree that keeping pet dogs should be allowed in the public housing estates.

Secondly, dogs are not only dirty but also dangerous and frightening. Some people may think that dogs can act as caretakers to keep an eye on their master's properties. But keeping dogs, especially those aggressive ones, like Boxers or Pitbulls, for security's reason doesn't really help as protection can always be provided by locks, neighbours and other means. These fierce fight dogs will only scare everyone and even pose a threat to our lives. Do you remember a fight dog killed a baby in a flat of a public housing estate early this year? This shows that dogs are always potentially dangerous. On top of these, some spiteful keepers empower themselves by keeping huge dogs. They bully and threaten others with them. So, keeping pet dogs has many drawbacks.

Undoubtedly, dogs are sometimes regarded as lovely, loyal and good companions of people. It is also believed that they can relieve people's stress, and share their happiness and unhappiness. However, it's obvious that dogs are also troublesome as they need to be fed regularly and exercised. As Hong Kong people always lead a hectic life, most keepers are too busy to take care of their dogs properly. Thus, many problems like insanitation, dangers and noises of dog's barking may arise and become the bones of contention between neighbours, especially in the crowded public housing estates. I guess most of us got the experience of being woken up by the dogs' barking from your neighbours' home in the small hours. Obviously, dog keeping can be a nightmare to both the owners and the neighbours.

It's time to prohibit dog keeping in public housing estates strictly. Of course, it will deprive

the keepers of their freedom and rights to do anything they like. However, should those who suffer from dog keeping be respected? Why can't they enjoy a clean, safe and quiet living environment?

That's all I want to say. I'm certain that you will agree that today's motion should stand. Thank you.

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