

Opinions



TREND TASK

Approach: Station

Focus: Persuasive writing.

Resources: Pictures in answer booklet.

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Questions/instructions:

Some children have written their opinions. But what do **you** think?

Write **Yes** or **No** in here

Why do you say that?

YEAR 4 – HIGH RANGE:

NO – Because you can't play fetch you can't take them for a walk, and you don't really take them out.

yes – cats don't poo on the lawn dogs make loud sounds cats can come inside so you can cuddle it and you don't have to take it for a walk

yes – Because dogs bark all day You can hold cats in your hands. They're cuter. They don't meow that much.

YEAR 4 – MID RANGE:

NO! – Dogs are better cats because Dogs are more playful and Cats are just plain lazy!

NO – Because dogs can do a lot of tricks and cats can't

no – because cats wander off and don't pay attention

Position:

	% responses	
	2002 ('98)	2002 ('98)
	year 4	year 8
yes	47 (38)	35 (35)
no	51 (58)	64 (60)

Relevance of argument to position:

strong	9 (2)	24 (29)
moderate	53 (49)	52 (52)
weak or none	38 (49)	24 (19)

Clarity of expression:

very clear	16 (14)	39 (37)
moderately clear	71 (70)	55 (55)
unclear or none	13 (16)	6 (8)

Strength of justification:

very well justified	5 (0)	17 (24)
quite well justified	25 (19)	35 (34)
a little justified	57 (67)	43 (37)
not justified	13 (14)	5 (5)

YEAR 8 – HIGH RANGE:

Yes - I believe cats make better pets than dogs because cats don't need to be fed as much, they exercise themselves and don't need to be continuously watched. They are easy to care for pets.

No - Because a dog can be trained to guard the house but also be patted and hugged etc. They can be house trained and keep you fit because they need runs.

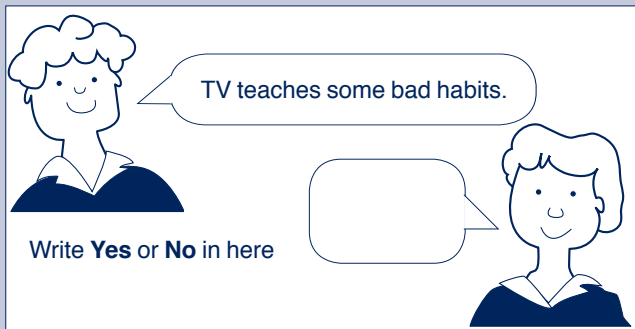
No - Dogs are more intelligent than cats, they can do so many tricks. For example if you train a dog well then it can smell drugs, rescue people and shake hands.

YEAR 8 – MID RANGE:

No - Because cats are lazy and don't do anything. But dogs are fun and playful plus they listen.

No! - Because dogs can fend for you and do heaps & heaps of tricks and cats can't.

Yes - Because dogs are mean and fight and eat anything but cats are good and does not fight and be mean to other pets



Why do you say that?

YEAR 4 – HIGH RANGE:

yes – there can be some stuff the kids believe. It can hurt your eyes.

Yes – When they wack [watch] t.v. they learn bad habits of doing things.

yes – Because you can go blind If you wathed a fihgting move you might play that and hirt someone. It colud have roud [rude] stuff.

YEAR 4 – MID RANGE:

Yes – sometimes T.V. has bad programs Pokemon.

Yes – Because when you watch TV sometimes there a programs which have bad words in them

yes – because sometimes tv is violent

		% responses	
		2002 ('98)	2002 ('98)
		year 4	year 8
Position:	yes	66 (64)	72 (67)
	no	30 (30)	25 (28)
Relevance of argument to position:			
	strong	4 (2)	20 (19)
	moderate	41 (29)	48 (46)
	weak or none	55 (69)	32 (35)
Clarity of expression:	very clear	7 (8)	28 (22)
	moderately clear	64 (56)	61 (60)
	unclear or none	29 (36)	11 (18)
Strength of justification:			
	very well justified	2 (0)	12 (9)
	quite well justified	15 (12)	34 (44)
	a little justified	49 (54)	42 (31)
	not justified	34 (34)	12 (16)

YEAR 8 – HIGH RANGE:

Yes - TV teaches young children that it is ok to fight and hurting others is funny when it is not. Some programmes encourage laziness and that school is boring when that is not the case.

Yes - Because cartoons have an influence on some children and there is some violence in cartoons. Also, some cartoon characters have some very bad habits that children can copy

Yes - There could be programmes on T.V. that are innapropriate for younger viewers such as foul language or drug abuse, violence, etc. As you grow older you understand more so it's ok then!

YEAR 8 – MID RANGE:

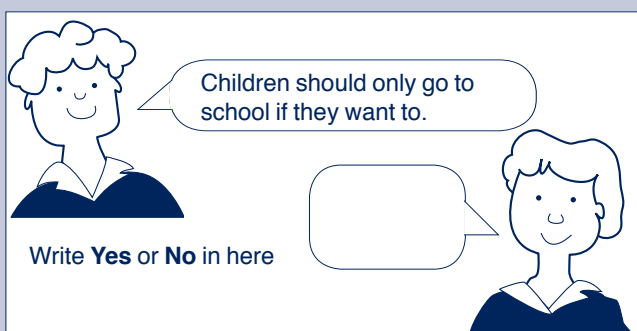
No - There are good things that t.v.can teach like the discovory channel and stuff.

Yes! - Because on some movies people jump off high cliffs and intend to fly. They make little kids do that.

YES - Because TV teacher sometimes Bad language and rude people

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Opinions: continued



Why do you say that?

		% responses	
		2002 ('98)	2002 ('98)
		year 4	year 8
Position:	yes	15 (18)	14 (20)
	no	84 (82)	85 (77)
Relevance of argument to position:	strong	6 (1)	20 (15)
	moderate	58 (60)	57 (68)
	weak or none	36 (39)	23 (17)
Clarity of expressive:	very clear	10 (8)	29 (29)
	moderately clear	72 (80)	63 (65)
	unclear or none	18 (12)	8 (6)
Strength of justification:	very well justified	2 (1)	11 (6)
	quite well justified	20 (22)	34 (49)
	a little justified	62 (70)	50 (44)
	not justified	16 (7)	5 (1)
Total score:	22-27	2 (0)	16 (18)
	19-21	7 (6)	19 (16)
	16-18	19 (14)	26 (34)
	13-15	32 (33)	24 (16)
	10-12	23 (28)	12 (10)
	0-9	17 (19)	3 (6)

YEAR 4 – HIGH RANGE:

yes – maybe they fell sick and the could go home
they might be having a bad day

No – Because it's agents [against] the lar [law] not to go to school wene your under about 25. You woun't learn anything.

No – it will be better for your reputation and education,
you will be smarter and intellergent

YEAR 4 – MID RANGE:

NO! – If people diddint go to school they would be as dome [dumb] as eneything!

NO – Because the probably won't get a really awesome report

No – Because most people need to learn

YEAR 8 – HIGH RANGE:

No - It is very important for our community and country to be well educated. Where would we get our doctors etc? It is also important as it may be a waste of school buildings and resources if the schools haven't enough students.

No - Children need a good education and if they had a choice most would probably not go to school and get a bad education and not get far in life.

Yes - Children should be able to make their own choices and if they say no, they will find that if you go to school, you can get a good job, earn more money and find friends.

YEAR 8 – MID RANGE:

No - School teaches you things it helps you learn so when you are older you can get a job and some money.

No! - Because when kids go to school they get learnt different types of things, example: Unit, how to write & read and spell.

NO - Children Have to go to school Because they would not get education and might not get a job.

Commentary:

About 20 percent more year 8 than year 4 students attained the highest level on each of the nine task components examining the quality of persuasive writing. Despite this, about half of the year 8 students could manage no better than 'a little justified' in arguing for their chosen position. There was very little change in performance between 1998 and 2002, at either year level.