

SPECTRUM TUITION PTY LTD

PRACTICE EXERCISE 1 – BRAINSTORMING

ARGUMENTS

Brainstorming Arguments:

Your arguments are simply reasons for your contention. Below is a list of ten ‘umbrella topics’, which are simply topics you can use to help you come up with arguments.

1. Financial	6. Protection of society
2. Environmental	7. Political
3. Family relationships	8. Educational
4. Health & safety	9. Technological
5. Individuality	10. Happiness

For instance, for the contention that high school students should not have access to mobile phones, you might argue:

1. **Financial:** Mobile phones are too expensive
2. **Educational:** Mobile phones can be a distraction
3. **Health and safety:** Mobile phones can be used as a bullying tool

Similarly, if you wished to argue for the proposition, some arguments might be:

1. **Health and safety:** Mobile phones are useful in an emergency
2. **Happiness:** Mobile phones can be a source of entertainment
3. **Relationships:** Phones are a good way to keep in touch with friends and family

Brainstorming evidence:

Evidence is simply the reason/s for your argument. It does not have to be a statistic or a real life example: any reason can act as evidence as long as it answers *how* or *why*.

1. Financial: Mobile phones are too expensive

How are mobile phones too expensive?

- Constantly have to be updated
- Have to pay for every call/text
- What if they get lost?
- Kids often do not have time to work a lot, and therefore can't pay for it themselves

Why is this a bad thing?

- Parents end up having to pay for the phone themselves

2. Educational: Mobile phones can be a distraction

How are mobile phones a distraction?

- Portable and convenient, so they can be used everywhere
- Games/internet access
- Texting

Why is this a bad thing?

- Distracts from studies/concentration in class

3. Health and safety: Mobile phones can be used as a bullying tool

How can mobile phones be used as a bullying tool?

- Used to send threatening or offensive messages
- Used to take photos that can then be used to make fun of a student
- Can be done in private, rather than face to face (which teachers might see)
- Bullying content can be spread quickly and to many people

Why is this a bad thing?

Bullying can cause serious emotional and physical problems for students

Practice Questions

In the table below, you have been given two prompts. For each of these prompts, try to think of an argument related to the relative umbrella topics given. Some of the panels have been filled out for you to provide an example.

	Should smoking be illegal in public places	Should public transport be free for all Australians
Financial		
Health and Safety		<i>-Taking public transport often provides more exercise than taking a car.</i> <i>-If more Australians took public transport, there would be fewer car related accidents on the road.</i>
Environmental		
Individual freedom	<i>-Making smoking illegal would take away individuals' freedom to make their own choices.</i> <i>People have the right to do what they want, even if it is unhealthy.</i>	