



# Persuasive arguments

Read this example of **informative** and **persuasive** writing.

## 1 Homes for others

Every living creature has a place where it feels at home. Polar bears are at home in the Arctic; lions are at home in the African grasslands. The place where a creature feels at home is called its natural habitat. You feel at home in your own house. You have safe food to eat and you may know your neighbors, even if you are not friends with all of them. It is the same for all other creatures. Their natural habitat is a place where they and their ancestors have lived for perhaps millions of years. They are used to the climate and the other species in the same habitat. Very often wild creatures can only live in one sort of habitat. Conservationists began by saving species which were threatened by stopping hunting, poaching, or overfishing. Now, people realize that saving a species is not enough. Its home has to be saved as well. Natural habitats are in danger everywhere. When people cut down forests or drain swamps the creatures which lived in those habitats may have nowhere else to go.



## 2 Why conserve?

We are faced with an important decision. We know that thousands of different species are threatened with becoming extinct. Once they are gone, they will never come back. There are probably thousands more in existence that we don't know about because we haven't discovered them yet. Conservation can save some of these species, but costs money and affects people's lives. Why should we bother with it?



## 3 Looking after ourselves

We need the other creatures in the biosphere because they provide us with food, building materials, fuel, and medicine. However we must use these carefully and sparingly. If we destroy the biosphere because we are greedy or just stupid, then we will die out ourselves. If we look after it, we shall survive, and so will all the other creatures. So conserving the biosphere means looking after ourselves.



From *Endangered Earth* by Jeremy Burgess

What effect do you think the **headings** of the **paragraphs** have on the reader?

.....  
.....  
.....





# More persuasive writing

Reread the **text**, then answer the following questions in complete sentences.

How does the author explain the term **natural habitat**?

.....  
.....

The author tells you how you feel in your house – but does he really know? Why do you think he does this?

.....  
.....

The author says that *natural habitats are in danger everywhere*. Is this true or not? Why does he say this?

.....  
.....

How many times does the author use the words **we**, **us**, or **ourselves** in paragraphs 2 and 3? Why do you think he does this?

.....  
.....

The author says that if we look after the biosphere, we will survive and so will all the other creatures. Do you think this is definitely true, or can you think of other possible threats to people and animals?

.....  
.....

Write down other **words** or **phrases** (groups of words) that could replace these words in the article without changing its meaning.

poaching .....

extinct .....

biosphere .....

habitat .....

conservation .....





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What effect do you think the **headings** of the **paragraphs** have on the reader?

The headings clarify what each paragraph is about, emphasizing the main points.

.....  
.....  
.....

Here your child is introduced to informative and persuasive writing. Arguing a case or a point of view and backing it with examples is a useful skill. Help your child realize, however, that such writing is subjective and seldom represents a balanced view.





# More persuasive writing

Reread the **text**, then answer the following questions in complete sentences.

How does the author explain the term **natural habitat**?

The author explains the term natural habitat as a place where a creature feels at home.

The author tells you how you feel in your house – but does he really know? Why do you think he does this?

The author doesn't really know how I feel at home. He assumes I feel good because he wants me to understand how animals feel in their habitat.

The author says that *natural habitats are in danger everywhere*. Is this true or not? Why does he say this?

Not all natural habitats are in danger. The author says that they are to emphasise his point.

How many times does the author use the words **we**, **us**, or **ourselves** in paragraphs 2 and 3? Why do you think he does this?

We = 12, us = 1, ourselves = 2. The author uses these words to make the reader feel involved.

The author says that if we look after the biosphere, we will survive and so will all the other creatures. Do you think this is definitely true, or can you think of other possible threats to people and animals?

It is not definitely true that if we look after the biosphere we will survive. Other possible threats include natural disasters and disease.

Write down other **words** or **phrases** (groups of words) that could replace these words in the article without changing its meaning.

poaching *illegal hunting*

extinct *dying out*

biosphere *part of Earth where plants and animals live*

habitat *natural home of a living thing*

conservation *protecting the natural world*



The questions on this page examine the persuasive text (text that deliberately persuades the reader to the writer's view) and reveal how it works. You may need to discuss how to approach the answers if your child is unfamiliar with the topic.