

**Text Structure and Language Features: Example 2**

**Text Structure - Argument Title**

**TATTOOING AND BODY PIERCING ON MINORS**

**Statement of position**

Tattooing and body piercing on minors should be illegal as it is something that anyone can live to regret. These practices have too much potential to damage adolescents and should not be allowed, even if parents approve. There are too many medical risks, and young people do not have the maturity to think about the consequences of tattoos and body piercing on their future.

**Argument point, elaboration**

Firstly, both tattooing and body piercing are fairly permanent. If a young person has a tattoo, they have to live with it either for the rest of their lives, or until they can afford to have special treatment to get it removed. Many young people go through phases which they later want to forget about. People often choose to tattoo the name of their boyfriend or girlfriend on some part of their body. When they break up, someone is left with an unwanted and perhaps embarrassing mark on their body.

**Argument point, elaboration**

Body piercings may also leave unwanted effects. Some body piercings are very small and because the skin is an organ, unwanted piercings may gradually grow over. However, you can be left with scars and even deformities, especially from larger piercings.

**Argument point, elaboration**

Furthermore, it can be argued that both tattooing and body piercing carry health risks such as hepatitis or less serious infections. Those people who go to certified places to get their tattoos are safer than those who don't, but there are still some places which don't follow all the safety procedures. Some young people even do tattoo and body piercings on themselves or their friends. This can be very dangerous, as the equipment is not sterile and they don't know how to reduce infection after they have done the tattoo or piercing.

**Reinforcement of position statement**

In conclusion, tattoos and body piercings can have a negative influence on how employers and friends think of you. Therefore, a decision to mutilate your body should not be taken lightly, and only adults should be allowed to make it.

**Language Features**

- Use of present tense is predominant
- Use of word chains to build topic information, e.g. tattoos, body, unwanted, damage
- Use of relating verbs, e.g. are, have, carry
- Use action verbs, e.g. damage
- Use of action verbs to create causal relation, e.g. cause
- Use of passive voice, e.g. should only be allowed
- Use of modality, e.g. should not, can
- Use of general nouns, e.g. places, people
- Use of technical language, e.g. sterile
- Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. an unwanted and perhaps embarrassing mark
- Use of adverbial phrases, e.g. on their body
- Use of time conjunctions to sequence events, e.g. when, and use of causal conjunctions, e.g. as a result, therefore
- Use of text connectives to structure argument, e.g. furthermore, therefore
- Use of evaluative language, e.g. Some young people even do tattoos on themselves, mutilate, can be very dangerous: use of persuasive language, e.g. should only be allowed
- Use of beginnings of sentence to focus the reader's attention, e.g. Tattooing and body piercing on minors, Body piercings, Furthermore, it can be argued that both tattooing and body piercing
- Use of empty subject, e.g. There are too many medical risks
- Use of compound and complex sentences