8.7 WRITING

Expressing an opinion, presenting arguments

I can use simple connectors to give an opinion and present arguments in a short text.

1 3.56 **Translate the words in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary.**

buy recycled things plant trees save water
sort rubbish for recycling throw away less
turn off the light turn off the water tap

2 **Which things in Exercise 1 do you do? Compare your ideas with other people in the class.**

3 **Read the blog and answer the questions.**

1 What does the writer think we should do to protect the environment?
2 What three arguments does he give for his opinion?
3 Do you agree with him? Why?/Why not?



Environment blog

Go veg to save the planet

by SamHarvey 11/04/19

[1] **In my opinion**, the best thing we can do for our planet is to become vegetarians.

[2] **First of all**, there is a lot of waste when we produce meat. For example, you need about sixteen kilograms of cereal and nearly 20,000 litres of water to produce one kilogram of meat. We should stop producing meat and grow cereals for humans instead. It will be much easier to feed all the people in the world.

[3] **In addition**, you need a lot of land to keep large farm animals, such as cows. In South America, farmers are destroying tropical forests to create space for cows which will become hamburgers in other countries.

[4] **Finally**, remember the animals themselves! Animals on large 'factory farms' have a terrible life, and then a terrible death.

[5] You don't even have to stop eating meat completely. Just eat less. You'll help save the Earth and feed everyone on it!

4 **Read the blog again. Put sentences a–e in the correct order to show the structure of the blog entry.**

a Add another argument. ☐
b Repeat your opinion and/or encourage the reader to do something. ☐
c Add the final argument. ☐
d State your opinion. ☐
e Give the first explanation/argument. ☐

5 **Complete the WRITING FOCUS with the words in purple from the blog.**

WRITING FOCUS

An opinion and arguments

- **Stating your opinion**
  I think/I believe … It seems (to me) …
  In my [1] opinion … In my view …
- **First argument**
  Firstly, … First [2] _____ , …
- **Next argument(s)**
  Secondly, … Also, …
  In [3] _____ , …
- **Final argument**
  [4] _____ , … Lastly, …

6 **Replace the phrases in purple in the blog with different phrases from the WRITING FOCUS.**

7 **Put the sentences in the correct order, as in an opinion text.**

a Lastly, why choose nuclear when there are other options? Why not build a wind farm? ☐
b Please join the protest against the power plant today! ☐
c Firstly, it's not safe. A mistake can cause a terrible disaster, like the one in Japan in 2011. ☐
d I believe the plan to build a nuclear power station next to our town is a very bad idea. 1
e Secondly, we should not use nuclear energy if we don't know what to do with the dangerous radioactive waste. ☐

SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

8 **Write a blog entry on a topic connected with the environment. Use the ideas in Exercise 1 and the WRITING FOCUS to help you. Include the following information:**

- Express your opinion.
- Give at least two arguments to support your opinion.
- Encourage the readers to take action.

LIVEWORKSHEETS