

Weighing an Argument

Weighing an argument means to examine the *pros* and *cons*.

For example: Should students elect their teachers?

PROS

(The pros are the good points)

Some teachers would teach harder.

Some teachers would prepare more for class

Some bad teachers wouldn't get elected.

Some teachers would try to make their class more interesting.

CONS

(The cons are the bad points)

Some teachers would give every student good grades.

Students might elect teachers they like, not good teachers.

Teachers might teach what is interesting and not what is important.

Weighing the argument:

On the one hand, ...

On the other hand, ...

Some people argue that students should elect their teachers. On the one hand, teachers would be worried about their job so some teachers would teach harder and prepare more for class. Also, teachers would try to make their classes more interesting. And most of all, some bad teachers would not get elected so the quality of education would improve. But on the other hand, teachers might give every student good grades to keep the students happy. Students might not elect good teachers but instead elect teachers they liked or teachers that were easy. Also, teachers might teach what is interesting and not what is important.

Weighing an Argument

With a partner, choose an argument from the topics list. Write the pros and cons of the argument and then write a paragraph about the argument.

Topic:

Pros

Cons

Paragraph:

Topic List

Should university education be free?

Should middle school students study whatever they want?

Should school vacation be increased?

Should school vacation be in spring and fall?

Should alcohol be made illegal?

Should we spend more money on space exploration?

Should we buy things from other countries?

Should we get rid of tests in school?

Should high school students study for one year in a foreign country?