**1. Identifying the Issue and Contention in Single Texts: Worked Sample**

**Sustainable Seas**

We are facing desperate times as the world’s seas face plummeting marine life leaving those dependent on the ocean for income and food left increasingly vulnerable. With populations of fish and other marine vertebrates, including marine mammals, reptiles and birds halving since 1970, there is no question about the need for a commitment to sustainable fishing practices if we don’t want to see the oceans’ ecosystems completely collapse.

Overfishing and destructive fishing practices are a major contributor to the concerning calamity facing our seas. A WWF’s Living Blue Planet report has recently revealed a grave decline in the size of marine populations globally over the course of a single generation. With many commercial fish stocks already in serious decline, it is clear we have an enormous challenge on our hands, made all the more urgent by the fact that global seafood demand is predicted to grow another 50m tonnes by 2025.

To achieve more sustainable seas, smarter fishing practices must urgently be implemented across the world’s oceans to eliminate bycatch, waste and overfishing.  Moreover, there is a crucial requirement to renew a firm intolerance for unregulated fishing. Additionally, the world must stand united in order to curb the drastic and devastating decline in marine populations by mandating the promotion of market-based improvements to the way fish- especially tuna- is sourced.

**What is the issue being addressed in the Editorial “Sustainable Seas” and what is the text’s contention?**

**2. Identifying the Issue and Contention in Single Texts: Task**

For each of the following texts, establish the issue and the contention presented by each of the writers.

**a) The tragic cost of Trump’s presidency**

America used to be the home of the free and the land of democracy. America used to be the optimum example of the right to free speech. America used to be a model of effective balance of power. Then, Donald Trump became president and we waved farewell to the America that used to be**.** This poor excuse of a president has undemocratically revoked the security clearance of everyone who opposes him. With audacity and an unreserved disrespect for America’s First Amendment, he has effectively called for the shutdown of a free press. Claiming that he aims to “Make America Great Again”, he has done nothing more than divide the nation. Trump and his cronies have turned America it into a dictatorship flouting the Constitution’s established checks and balances of the three branches of government by purposefully weakening the Legislative and Judicial arms and empowering the Executive. This man is corrupt, turning the land of the free into the land of tyranny and venality.

                                                                                                                                                  P. Rogers

What is the issue being addressed in P. Rogers’ letter to the editor and what is the text’s contention?

The issue being addressed is about the metaphorical costs of the trump presidency in terms of free media.  And the contention is about how trump as a man is corrupt and turning the land of free into tyranny and venality.

**2. Identifying the Issue and Contention in Single Texts: Task (continued)**

**b) Too much sugar**

Obesity among adults and children is fast becoming a national epidemic. With one in five children being obese and 1 in 3 being overweight, the challenge of curbing childhood obesity is not to be underestimated. Severe childhood obesity rates have doubled since 2010 triggering alarm bells and firmly placing this matter as one requiring serious public health measures. Turning young kids into biologic adults, aging them faster and placing them at risk of adult illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, the time has come for more decisive action in the form of levies on sugar-sweetened drinks, sweets and processed foods. There is no doubt that our kids are consuming too much sugar and one way of curbing such an obesity-fuelling trend is to enforce a hefty tax on the foods that contain too much sugars.

What is the issue being addressed in the above editorial extract and what is the text’s contention?

The issue being presented in this text is the sharp increase in childhood obesity which has occurred due to highly processed sugary foods with a contention to impose a sugar tax on high sugar food and drinks

**3. Identifying the Issue and Contention in Multiple Texts: Worked Sample**

**Vulnerable Vapers**

Sadly, and with great concern, vaping among teenagers has skyrocketed raising fears about the potential damage that this recent smoking trend can have on teens’ developing brains and the risks of addiction that vaping may trigger. Undeniably, this serious public health issue is not without its fair share of challenges as much like the tobacco industry, the vaping industry appears to be on a constant mission to develop new tactics to hook impressionable youths who have grown up hearing all about the deadly consequences of smoking cigarettes but have no such associated fears when it comes to vaping. Playing on such a vulnerable wavelength, vaping companies are investing a lot into swaying today’s generation into a lulled belief that vaping is harmless and quite different to cigarette smoking, while truth be known, vaping nicotine products is just as addictive as smoking regular run of the mill ciggies. Moreover, much marketing is going into appealing to young people’s exotic tastes through the promotion of e-liquids as diverse in flavourings that are exciting and cool to try. Now, considering the fact that e-cigarettes produce an aerosol which users inhale and exhale from the device, and given the fact that the United States’ Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has stated that this inhaled aerosol can contain harmful substances including nicotine, ultrafine particles, flavourings with chemicals such as diacetyl which is linked to serious lung disease, and other cancer-causing organic compounds and chemicals, young people need to be wary that vaping is not as safe and risk-free as they are connivingly led to believe by marketing that should be held more accountable.

Suzy Walters

**Harmless Fun**

Here we go with the scaremongering again! Every time young people become involved in some sort of hip trend, wowsers such as Suzy Walters can’t help but put their two-bits in to demonise the trend and stop young adults from enjoying themselves. Why can’t the older generation just lay off? Perhaps they are jealous that in our time, we are able to vape relatively risk free while their generation is still paying the price of cigarette smoking? Let’s face it, if youths choose to vape choosing flavours that contain no nicotine, then there seems to be no real harm in it.  After a long hard day at Uni or at work, there is simply no harm in vaping whilst enjoying a cool refreshing drink or a coffee. Suzy Walters needs to get a grip on her blatant criticism and stop wrongly dissing vaping as being akin to smoking, as that is not correct, nor is it fair.

Tommy Hanson

**What is the issue being addressed by Walters and Hanson and what are their respective contentions?**

**4. Identifying the Issue and Contention in Multiple Texts: Task**

**For each of the following texts, comparatively establish the issue and the contention presented by each of the writers.**

1. Chaos and mayhem have once again reigned in what can only be described as an ugly year for the AFL in terms of crowd violence. Yesterday, the thrilling preliminary final battle between GWS and Collingwood was unfortunately overshadowed by ugly scenes in the stands of the MCG with scores of footy fans being evicted from grounds and multiple people arrested.  Video footage of the violence and unruly behaviour made the rounds on social media showing members of MCG security as well as Victoria Police attempting to subdue the disobedient fans. Two men were arrested after throwing their drinks at security guards and refusing to leave the match. The question that must be asked, is what makes footy fans think that they can carry on in such an anarchic manner? Is it because they are simply getting a slap on their wrist before being set free? It is high time that we draw the line and irrevocably ban anyone who behaves in violent or boisterous ways from ever attending an AFL match. That is the only way that will ensure that wild fans are kept on a leash.

Trevor Marlins

The ‘chaos’ and ‘mayhem’ that we are being repeatedly told are overtaking this year’s AFL matches are nothing new. Every single year, there are fans who get a bit rowdy and every single year, there are some outbreaks of violent behaviour by some fan or other who’d had a bit much to drink. The media’s desire to sell stories seems to sensationalise these somewhat regular and at times trivial occurrences making a mountain out of a mole hill.

Sam Newton

**What is the issue being addressed by Marlins and Newton and what are their respective contentions?**

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