



SMART JUNIORS 2

The Tug of Two Worlds: City or Countryside?

Lesson 28 Critical Thinking



Evaluating Arguments

What do you do when you can't choose between different arguments?

Argument 1



Most teenagers think that smartphones are useful.



Argument 2



Some parents think that smartphones are harmful.

It's better to consider both sides when **evaluating arguments**. This helps you understand different viewpoints. Once you've carefully understood the arguments, you can decide where you stand and explain more with supporting details.

CRITICAL THINKING

Two Tables

Using **two tables** helps clarify arguments. The first table presents both sides, while the second table shows your position and responses.

1

Both Sides



2

Position and Responses

Supporting Argument	Opposing Argument
Argument:	Argument:
Supporting Detail(s):	Supporting Detail(s):

The Author's Position: _____	
Response to Counter-argument 1:	Response to Counter-argument 2:
Extra Supporting Detail(s):	Extra Supporting Detail(s):



LET'S ANALYZE

- Go back to the essay and look for the supporting argument and its supporting details.

Supporting Argument

Argument:

Supporters of leaving the countryside emphasize the advantages of city life.

Supporting Detail(s):

1. a wider _____

2. top-tier _____

The Tug of Two Worlds | Paragraph 2

Supporters of leaving the countryside emphasize the advantages of city life. They think urban environments offer a wider range of job opportunities and higher salaries.

Additionally, cities provide top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences.

LET'S ANALYZE

- Check paragraph 2 and look for the opposing argument and its supporting details.

Opposing Argument

Argument:

Critics of leaving the countryside highlight the benefit of rural living.

Supporting Detail(s):

1. _____

2. _____

The Tug of Two Worlds | Paragraph 2

However, critics of leaving the countryside highlight the benefits of rural living. Rural areas often offer cleaner air, fresh foods, and lower crime rates, which are good for overall well-being. Secondly, living in the countryside brings more opportunities for individuals to connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of landscapes and outdoor activities.

CRITICAL THINKING

Check out the two sides. Which side does the author support?

What are the **two counter-arguments** that the author needs to respond to?

1

Both
Sides

Supporting Argument	Opposing Argument
<p><i>Argument:</i></p> <p>Supporters emphasize the advantages of city life.</p>	<p><i>Argument:</i></p> <p>Critics highlight the benefits of rural living.</p>
<p><i>Supporting Detail(s):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. a wider range of job opportunities and higher salaries2. top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences	<p><i>Supporting Detail(s):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. cleaner air, fresh foods, and lower crime rates2. more opportunities to connect with nature and enjoy outdoor activities



two counter-arguments the author needs to respond to



the author's position

LET'S ANALYZE

- Check the author's position and the counter-argument. Then complete the author's response and supporting detail(s).

The Author's Position:

People should not abandon the countryside.

Counter-argument 1:

Urban environments may have more job opportunities and higher salaries

Author's Response:

Extra Supporting Detail(s):

The Tug of Two Worlds | Paragraph 3

Despite the allure of city life, I firmly believe that people should not abandon the countryside. While urban environments may have more job opportunities and higher salaries, they often come with increased competition and high living expenses. In contrast, rural areas provide a slower pace of life and a lower cost of living, which can contribute to overall well-being and financial stability.

LET'S ANALYZE

- Check the author's position and the counter-argument. Then complete the author's response and supporting detail(s).

The Author's Position:

People should not abandon the countryside.

Counter-argument 2:

Cities may offer top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences.

Author's Response:

Extra Supporting Detail(s):

The Tug of Two Worlds | Paragraph 3

On the other hand, although cities may offer top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences, smaller towns can provide a better environment for personal growth and relationship building. People in rural areas often have stronger connections to their neighbors and local organizations, enabling them to build supportive networks.

Check the completed table.

2

Position
and
Responses

The Author's Position: People should not abandon the countryside.

Counter-argument 1:

Urban environments may have more job opportunities and higher salaries.

Author's Response:

They often come with increased competition and high living expenses.

Extra Supporting Detail(s):

a slower pace of life and lower cost of living; good for well-being and financial stability.

Counter-argument 2:

Cities may offer top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences.

Author's Response:

Smaller towns can provide a better environment for personal growth and relationship building.

Extra Supporting Detail(s):

have stronger connections to their neighbors and local organizations.

If you were the author, which side would you support and how would you response to the counter-arguments?

WRITING TASK



The table provides us with information for evaluating arguments. Let's complete a paragraph to explain the supporter's argument.

Supporting Argument

Argument:

Supporters emphasize the advantages of city life.

Supporting Detail(s):

1. a wider range of job opportunities and higher salaries
2. top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences

Supporters _____

_____.

They think _____

_____. Additionally,

cities provide _____

_____.

 Complete the paragraph to explain the critic's/opposition's argument.

Opposing Argument

Argument:

Critics highlight the benefits of rural living.

Supporting Detail(s):

1. cleaner air, fresh foods, and lower crime rates
2. more opportunities to connect with nature and enjoy outdoor activities

However, _____

_____ often offers _____

_____ ,

which is good for _____

Secondly, living in the _____ also

brings _____

WRITING TASK

 Respond to the first counter-argument by completing the paragraph.

The Author's Position:

People should not abandon the countryside.

Counter-argument 1:

Urban environments may have more job opportunities and higher salaries.

Author's Response:

They often come with increased competition and high living expenses.

Extra Supporting Detail(s):

a slower pace of life and lower cost of living

In my opinion, I firmly believe that _____

_____.

While _____

_____, they

often _____

_____. In contrast, _____

_____.

WRITING TASK

 Respond to the second counter-argument by completing the paragraph.

The Author's Position:
People should not abandon the countryside.

Counter-argument 2:
Cities may offer top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences.

Author's Response:
Smaller towns can provide a better environment for personal growth and relationship building.

Extra Supporting Detail(s):
have stronger connections to their neighbors and local organizations.

On the other hand, although _____
_____,
smaller towns can _____
_____.
People in rural areas often _____
_____,
making them _____.



When evaluating arguments, use the following two tables to help you “present both sides then show your position and response”. In the student’s book on page 59, use the two tables to evaluate the topic:
Should students bring smartphones to school?

1
Both Sides



2
Position and Responses

Supporting Argument	Opposing Argument
Argument:	Argument:
Supporting Detail(s):	Supporting Detail(s):
The Author’s Position: _____	
Response to Counter-argument 1:	Response to Counter-argument 2:
Extra Supporting Detail(s):	Extra Supporting Detail(s):

A vibrant cityscape at night, featuring a prominent green overlay that covers the right side of the image. The background shows a multi-lane highway with light trails from cars and a pedestrian bridge. Tall buildings with lit windows are visible in the distance. Several colorful circles (orange, green, and red) are scattered across the image, adding a modern, graphic feel.

WHAT'S NEXT...

In the next lesson, we'll be learning the grammar point of "relative clauses." See you next time!