



Inferential question

What is the writer's overall purpose in writing about this subject?

Justify your response with close reference to the points made and the language used.

You will find the answer to the inferential question throughout the text.

First, introduce the text (style & topic). Secondly, look at the structure of the text and the contrasting ideas given by the author. Write an inference for each idea. Justify these inferences by using evidence from the text (2 or 3 examples) along with some stylistic features.

Answering the questions below will guide you through your analysis.

CHECKLIST

a) Introduction

- What type of document is it? (usually an article from a newspaper)
- What style is it written in? (usually journalistic style)
- What is it about?

b) Inference

- What are the two contrasting ideas in the text? (usually positive & negative or negative & positive)
- What does the author infer ?

c) Evidence

- What examples does the author use for both contrasting ideas? Find 2 or 3 for each idea.

d) Stylistic features

- What semantic fields does the author use? (A semantic field is a set of words related in meaning)
- Does the author use statistics to back up their arguments? What else do these statistics show?
- Does the author use repetition to convince the reader?
- Does the author include first hand sources to strengthen their arguments and entertain the reader?
- Does the author include humour and irony in their text to ridicule, criticise or condemn the practices of society, politics and people?
- Does the author use rhetorical questions to emphasise a point or to get the audience thinking?
- How does the article end? What does the author finally infer?

USEFUL VERBS

to inform
to give a point of view
to discuss
to highlight an issue
to emphasise
to persuade

to convince
to criticise
to ridicule
to condemn
to back up his/her arguments
to strengthen his/her arguments
to entertain the reader