

CHAPTER 4 EXEMPLAR. SMOKING ARTICLE

Rufus, Teanna, Danielle and Matt read the following article about smoking. They knew they wanted to answer three key questions related to article:

1. What is the **main** point that the writer is making?
2. What is the strongest evidence cited to support the writer's opinion?
3. What is the best suggestion in the article to combat the problem?

Danielle suggests that they use a highlighter on their copy of the article with a colour for each question. They would look for points to provide evidence for their answers. Danielle and Matt did theirs on a paper version; Teanna and Rufus used the highlight function in WORD on the computer.

TOBACCO – The Killer in Our Midst

Does the 31st May have any significance to you? Does the date ring any bells? Actually, the date *did* ring a bell. On 31st May 1859, the famous bell, Big Ben, was heard for the first time. 31st May 2010 was Quit Facebook day – an appeal to end the addictive trends of poking, friending and mindless chat with people we don't know on subjects we don't care about.

31st May 2012 is a really important date in promoting the health and safety of people across the world. It is World No Tobacco Day. When I googled the date, World No Tobacco Day was disappointingly low down the list of important events. This was a real surprise to me. With tobacco being one of our biggest killers worldwide, I expected World No Tobacco Day to have a bigger profile.

Statistics from ASH* indicate that up to 5,000 people each year in New Zealand die from smoking-related diseases. For me, that would mean wiping out my whole town. All the people involved in businesses, tourist enterprises, shops, schools and churches, and their children too. We lose the equivalent of an entire town every year to a substance sold for less than \$15 that we can buy alongside our groceries.

Why does New Zealand, or any country for that matter, allow this killer to remain in society? We have some great advertising strategies that raise public consciousness of the evils of smoking. The 'Not Our Future' campaign uses popular celebrities to target young people and make them aware of the unattractive aspects of smoking. A great campaign as far as it goes, but does it go far enough? I don't think so. Smoking isn't just smelly and uncool. It's a killer, and a serial killer at that. We know smoking kills in several cruel and unusual ways. Lung cancer, mouth cancer, heart disease, kidney failure, high blood pressure, emphysema: the list is terrifyingly long – a series of chronic diseases that can take lives, often after the torture of surgery, severe pain and a rapidly reduced quality of life.

If tobacco were a person, he would have been taken off the streets as soon as his identity was known and his crimes discovered. We have known of the dangers that smoking tobacco can cause since the mid-1960s and since then scientists have revealed more and more conditions caused or aggravated by smoking.

Tobacco isn't a serial killer just in New Zealand, it is a worldwide killer. If tobacco were a person, there would be an international pursuit of this high-profile assassin. He would be relentlessly hunted and brought to justice.

But tobacco isn't a person. It's a trillion-dollar business across the world. Even though smoking is increasingly demonised across the globe, tobacco is still available everywhere.

There is further significance to the 31st May. On the 31st May 1962, Adolf Eichmann was hanged after being found guilty of crimes against humanity. As a Nazi leader during World War II, Eichmann was in charge of the despatch of Jews to concentration camps, and was therefore linked to the deaths of millions of people. He had been in hiding after the war, but was found and brought to account. Like tobacco, his crimes were insidious. He was hunted down and made to pay for his crimes. Why is the serial killer in our midst, tobacco, allowed to remain among us?

Eichmann and his ideas were clearly determined to be wholly inappropriate to modern society. His crimes were universally condemned and severely punished. We should treat tobacco in the same way as other killers guilty of mass murder. Put tobacco to death, before we lose more communities. On World No Tobacco day, help to raise awareness of this killer. Tell your Facebook friends. Have a conversation about a serious subject. Share information about this scourge on our society, and maybe one day soon bells will ring across the world as a death knell to tobacco, our silent serial killer.

–Tracey Lean

Here are the points Rufus highlighted in paragraph 2.

31 May 2012 is a really important date in promoting the health and safety of people across the world. It is World No Tobacco Day. When I googled the date, World No Tobacco Day was disappointingly low down the list of important events. This was a real surprise to me. With tobacco being one of our biggest killers worldwide, I expected World No Tobacco Day to have a bigger profile.

He wishes to identify these points to form an answer to question 2.

Teanna highlighted these points in paragraphs 3 and 4.

Statistics from ASH* indicate that up to 5,000 people each year in New Zealand die from smoking-related diseases. For me, that would mean wiping out my whole town. All the people involved in businesses, tourist enterprises, shops, schools and churches, and their children too. We lose the equivalent of an entire town every year to a substance sold for less than \$15 which we can buy alongside our groceries.

Why does New Zealand, or any country for that matter, allow this killer to remain in society? We have some great advertising strategies that raise the public consciousness of the evils of smoking. The 'Not Our Future' campaign uses popular celebrities to target young people and make them aware of the unattractive aspects of smoking. A great campaign as far as it goes, but does it go far enough? I don't think so. Smoking isn't just smelly and uncool. It's a killer, and a serial killer at that. We know smoking kills in several cruel and unusual ways. Lung cancer, mouth cancer,

heart disease, kidney failure, high blood pressure, emphysema: the list is terrifying long – a series of chronic diseases which can take lives, often after the torture of surgery, severe pain and a rapidly reduced quality of life.

Teanna chose these points to support her answer for question 2.

Danielle looked at paragraphs 5, 6 and 7.

If tobacco were a person, he would have been taken off the streets as soon as his identity was known and his crimes discovered. We have known of the dangers that smoking tobacco can cause since the mid-1960s and since then scientists have revealed more and more conditions caused or aggravated by smoking.

Tobacco isn't a serial killer just in New Zealand, it is a worldwide killer. If tobacco were a person, there would be an international pursuit of this high-profile assassin. He would be relentlessly hunted and brought to justice.

But tobacco isn't a person. It's a trillion-dollar business across the world. Even though smoking is increasingly demonised across the globe, tobacco is still available everywhere.

She found this evidence useful for question 2.

Matt looked at the last two paragraphs.

There is further significance to the 31st May. On the 31st May 1962, Adolf Eichmann was hanged after being found guilty of crimes against humanity. As a Nazi leader during World War II, Eichmann was in charge of the despatch of Jews to concentration camps, and was therefore linked to the deaths of millions of people. He had been in hiding after the war, but was found and brought to account. Like tobacco, his crimes were insidious. He was hunted down and made to pay for his crimes. Why is the serial killer in our midst, tobacco, allowed to remain among us?

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He was gathering information to help with question 3.

The group then discussed their findings. This is part of their decision-making process:

Matt: Well it's about smoking...the point is it's a worldwide killer. The writer thinks it's as bad as war crimes.

Danielle: No, it's not that it's as bad as war crimes, but it has killed just as many people.

Rufus: Yeah, and we should do something on World Tobacco Day.

Teanna: Why is smoking tobacco being compared to war crimes?

Danielle: Because it affects so many people. And there is the connection with World Tobacco Day and Adolf Eichmann who was a Nazi war criminal.

Matt: Is the suggestion that we raise the profile of smoking and talk about getting it banned?

Rufus: I think so, and we can do this across the world on Facebook.