

## Key stage 2

### Pupil C – Piece E: an argument

Context: after considering themes in fairy tales and questions such as, 'how far can the actions of Hansel and Gretel and those of the witch be justified?', pupils chose their own topic for developing an argument. They planned and wrote their own argument text, drawing on research.

Should the government do more about vaping for under 18s?

Over the past few years, there has been a new device called a 'vape' which has gained popularity quicker than anyone could have predicted. This hazardous product has caused many children under the age of 18 to go from living their best lives to lying in hospital beds; this must stop. In this argument I will be covering the main reasons why the government should urgently step in to protect under 18s from e-cigarettes.

Firstly, vapes contain many ingredients that can cause catastrophic health issues. Ultrafine particles block the lungs and if too much is inhaled, devastating consequences can be the result. These plastic tubes are packed with flavourants made from chemicals such as diacetyl which is clearly bad for the human body, particularly a child's body which is not fully developed yet. Vapes, like cigarettes also contain nicotine which is a highly addictive drug. Do you want your child to be a drug addict? If not, surely you agree more needs to be done to protect them.

Secondly, I want to talk about the health issues caused by vaping. This new habit teenagers are developing causes lung diseases. If you vape, studies show you are 34% more likely to have a heart attack or suffer another heart related illness such as heart failure, valve diseases and angina; 55% are likely to suffer from a mental illness such as anxiety or depression; and are guaranteed to do irreversible damage to your lungs. ②

What's more, if you vape around babies they are much more likely to develop Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Second hand smoke from cigarettes causes damage to children's lungs and can stunt their growth. Studies are currently being done to see if this is also the case with vaping. Is it worth the risk? Do you not value your children's lives? A generation of teens growing up with the habit is going to lead to their own children having a parent who vapes around them.

My last point is that, despite the clear problems vaping causes, many children are taking up the habit. This is because they are being persuaded to do so. They are marketed like toys; bright colours, sweet tastes and fun TV adverts all attract children's attention. Whilst vapes are illegal use for under 18s already, the government still needs to review their laws urgently. Vapes should not be in full view and positive views about vaping should be banned.

To sum up my points, action needs to be put into place so that e-cigarettes are not as accessible to under 18s. They are harmful in many ways and the advertisement needs to be banned.

A recent survey showed

1) Every 1 in 20<sup>th</sup> parents report vape usage when around their children.

2) These illnesses can have life threatening consequences for individuals so why not do we not have this illness being banned?