

Analysing arguments

'The Dangerous Dogs Act is a knee-jerk reaction to public opinion on aggressive dogs. I realise that something must be done to control aggressive dogs, but punishing every pet owner for the behaviour of a minority of dogs is wrong.'

'I own a Pit Bull terrier named Bouncer. He is a family pet; we have owned him since he was an 8-week-old puppy. He has never shown aggression to any person or any other dog, so why am I penalised by the Dangerous Dogs Act?'

What is the point of this argument?

What reasons are given for this person's opinion? _____

Is the argument biased? _____

Do you agree with this point of view? Explain your answer _____

Can you come up with a counter-argument? _____

Fergus says ...



When debating, you might have to argue on the side you don't actually agree with. Also, always think of counter-arguments that the opposition may come up with.