

## Activity

Episode 20  
29<sup>th</sup> July 2014

# Punishing Kids

## Key Learning

Students will investigate the debate about whether sending children to time out is a fair and effective form of discipline.

## The Australian Curriculum

### English / Literacy / Creating texts

Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive print and multimodal texts, choosing text structures, language features, images and sound appropriate to purpose and audience ([ACELY1704](#)) *Year 5*



Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, choosing and experimenting with text structures, language features, images and digital resources appropriate to purpose and audience ([ACELY1714](#)) *Year 6*



Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, selecting aspects of subject matter and particular language, visual, and audio features to convey information and ideas ([ACELY1725](#)) *Year 7*



### English / Literacy / Interpreting, analysing, evaluating

Identify characteristic features used in imaginative, informative and persuasive texts to meet the purpose of the text ([ACELY1690](#)) *Year 4*



Identify and explain characteristic text structures and language features used in imaginative, informative and persuasive texts to meet the purpose of the text ([ACELY1701](#)) *Year 5*



### English / Language / Text Structure and organisation

Understand how authors often innovate on text structures and play with language features to achieve particular aesthetic, humorous and persuasive purposes and effects ([ACELA1518](#)) *Year 6*



## Discussion Questions

1. Explain the *Punishing Kids* story to another student.
2. What does corporal punishment mean?
3. How has the way students are disciplined changed over the years?
4. Corporal punishment is illegal in Australia. True or false?
5. What are Kevin Donnelly's views on corporal punishment?
6. Do you agree with his views? Explain your answer?
7. What does Children's Commissioner Megan Mitchell say about sending children to the 'naughty corner'?
8. Do you agree with her views? Give reasons why or why not.
9. What do you think are fair consequences for kids who misbehave?
10. How did this story make you feel?

## Activities

### Class discussion

Hold a class discussion about the issues raised in the BtN story and ask students to record the main points. Here are some questions to help guide discussion:

- What are the rules in your classroom?
- What are the consequences when the class or school rules are broken?
- What do you think are fair consequences for kids who misbehave?
- What do you think are fair and effective ways to manage kids' behaviour? Give examples.
- Give your opinions about what Kevin Donnelly and Anna Sullivan are saying about punishing kids.

Students will investigate the punishment debate in detail by either holding a mini debate about the issue **or** constructing an exposition text.

Question to respond to:

*Sending children to time out is a fair and effective form of discipline.*

### Mini debate

#### *Preparing for your mini debate*

- Working in pairs, students will prepare a 1-2 minute speech for a mini debate about whether sending children to time out is a fair and effective form of discipline. One person will speak for the affirmative and the other will speak for the negative.
- Before students begin to construct their argument, ask them to record what they already know about the topic and what they would like to find out. Students then research the topic to gain a greater understanding of the issue.
- Ask students to list their arguments in point form on paper (without their partner seeing them). When they have done this, ask them to choose the five best points that will form the basis for their debate.
- Students will write in point form, their debate on cards that fit into the palm of their hand. Their debate needs to have an introduction (introducing the topic), middle (three main points) and a conclusion (restating their position). Students practise their speech and then present the mini debate to other students.

#### **Guide for giving feedback**

- Was the information clear and accurate?
- Were the arguments logical?
- Were the counter arguments accurate and relevant?
- Comments about the presentation style (tone of voice, body language, enthusiastic, convincing).

#### **Reflection**

- How difficult was it to think of points to support one side of the argument?
- Do you think you would have done a better job supporting the other side of the argument?
- Was I able to convince others of my opinion?
- Did my opinion change?
- What did you learn from this activity?

## Construct your own exposition text

Explain that students will be constructing a text to persuade others that sending children to time out is a fair and effective form of discipline. Provide students with the following structure to follow when completing this activity.

### Structure of an exposition text

#### Introduction

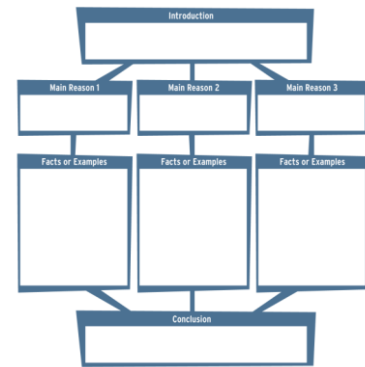
- What is the point you are trying to argue? Construct an introductory paragraph which states the issue or topic.
- Introduce the arguments that will be developed in the body of the text.

#### Body

- Construct arguments that support your point of view.
- Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence which introduces each point.
- The rest of the paragraph gives more reasons.
- Arguments can be ordered from strongest to weakest.

#### Conclusion

- Restate your position on the argument
- Construct a concluding paragraph that provides a summary of your arguments and a call to action.



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Use a persuasion map to plan your exposition text.

[http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/persuasion\\_map/](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/persuasion_map/)

## Reflection

Ask students to think about how difficult it was to think of arguments to support their case. Do they think they could have created a stronger argument if they were speaking for the opposing view?

## Further Investigation

Interview several adults about the punishments they received when they were at school. How does it compare with what happens in schools today?

### Related Research Links

Behind the News – Old School

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s2953658.htm>

Behind the News – Smacking Ban

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3814890.htm>

ABC News – Federal Government rules out return of corporal punishment, after curriculum adviser says it can be `very effective`

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-16/kevin-donnelly-slammed-over-corporal-punishment-comments/5600408>