

Section C – Argument and persuasive language

Instructions for Section C

Section C requires students to write an analysis of the ways in which argument and language are used to persuade others to share a point(s) of view. Read the background information on this page and the material on pages 12 and 13, and write an analytical response to the task below. For the purposes of this task, the term 'language' refers to written, spoken and visual language. Your response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria set out on the last page of this book. Section C is worth one-third of the total marks for the examination

Task: Write an analysis of the ways in which argument and written and visual language are used in the material on the **next pages** to try to persuade others to share the points of view presented.

Background Information

The rising popularity of vapes, which are electronic devices that simulate tobacco smoking, has generated concern surrounding the risks of secondhand vapour exposure. Also known as passive vaping, secondhand vapour exposure occurs when people breathe in the vapour breathed out by people who vape. Medical educator, Renee Bittoun, has written the following article for an Australian newspaper in response to this issue.

Passive vaping: Time we treat it like secondhand smoke and stand up for the right to clean air

Renee Bittoun

A medical student of mine recently said he loved the smell of vanilla in the house he shared with friends who vaped. "That's OK, right?" he asked. "Well no," I said, "If you can smell the vanilla you are probably getting nicotine as well."

Nicotine is colourless and odourless, and is extremely well absorbed through your respiratory tract, including your nose, mouth, airways and even your ears.

Vapers exhale nicotine and chemicals, including the sweet-smelling flavourings. Bystanders can then breathe them in. The lung defences of smokers, vapers and bystanders are overwhelmed by repeated exposure.

There is a lot of vaping going on in young people aged between 18 and 24. Despite a good amount of debate about the health effects of vaping, there is scant discussion around the risk of passive vaping and the consequences for the health and wellbeing of non-vapers and their right to inhale clean air.

Researchers have examined the content of exhaled vapour from users in confined spaces, like cars, and larger venues. Although levels were lower than for tobacco cigarettes, they described levels of the exhaled toxic substances as "ambient air pollution" that should be avoided to protect the health of non-smokers and non-vapers.

The evidence for the effects of passive vaping on the heart is emerging but researchers have compared it to passive smoking, which can clog arteries and cause clotting problems.



Australian state laws prohibit vaping in smoke-free areas.

In the late 1980s, passive smoking became the impetus to change legislation around tobacco use.

Health professionals had learnt decades earlier from a study of British doctors who smoked that tobacco smoking caused immense harm and early death in smokers. But later they began to understand that living with a smoker, working with smokers or having close repeated exposure to someone else's smoke could cause lung cancer, chronic bronchitis, worsen asthma and heart diseases in a non-smoker. The effects of passive smoking on children too were very concerning.

Advocacy groups began defacing or "refacing" billboard tobacco advertising and ridiculing their advertising. By the 1990s, people had started suing hospitality venues and workplaces for putting them in harms' way by exposing them to "secondhand smoke". Successes led to changes in legislation. Attitudes changed and non-smokers' rights came to the fore. We were all able to live in a smoke-free environment in Australia for decades.

In Australia, vaping restrictions are in line with laws around smoke-free areas and World Health Organization recommendations. For example, New South Wales legislation says people cannot use e-cigarettes in smoke-free areas under the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000. These include:

- all enclosed public places
- within ten metres of children's play equipment
- public swimming pools
- spectator areas at sports grounds or other recreational areas used for organised sporting events
- public transport stops and platforms, including ferry wharves and taxi ranks
- within four metres of a pedestrian access point to a public building
- commercial outdoor dining areas
- in a car with a child under 16.

Vaping on public transport vehicles such as trains, buses, light rail, ferries is also banned. But people are still vaping in their homes and other places where it's permitted. The attitudinal change that made tobacco smoking around others socially unacceptable is yet to develop.



Though debate continues about vaping, its safety and efficacy as a quitting aid, we cannot wait for years, to see the full effects of passive vaping.

Based on the public health precautionary principle, today's challenge is to engage and inform non-vapers, particularly young non-vapers, about their rights to be "vape free", breathe in clean air and take a stand.