

TRIAL SAMPLE**English Unit 4: Analysing Argument****Outcome 2 – Audio-visual text****Instructions**

Students are required to write an analysis of the ways in which argument and language are used to persuade others to share a point(s) of view in an audio or audio-visual persuasive text.

- Read the background information on this page and then listen to and watch a recording of the interview referred to.
- You will be played the interview **twice** and supplied with a **transcript** to assist your analysis.
- Write an analytical response to the task below. For the purposes of this task, the term 'language' refers to written, spoken and visual language.

Task

Write an analysis of the ways in which argument and spoken and visual language are used in the interview supplied to try to persuade others to share the points of view presented.

Background information

In October 2022, the initial findings of the Australian Child Maltreatment Study were released. The Study found that two thirds of Australians aged between 16 and 24 received some form of physical punishment from their parents as children. It also found that this punishment appeared to be linked to the later development of anxiety and depression.

The Study's authors have called on state and territory leaders to have such parental punishment of children made illegal.

Nine Network's current affairs program, *A Current Affair*, televised an interview with psychologist Dr Justin Coulson. The interview formed part of the program's discussion of this call for a ban on parents using physical punishment.

Dr Coulson supplies parenting advice and education through several media outlets, including Nine's program, *Parental Guidance*. The interview was conducted by Chris O'Keefe, an occasional presenter for *A Current Affair*. This edition of *A Current Affair* was televised on a Thursday night at 7pm. The program has an average nightly audience of 884,000 viewers.

TRIAL SAMPLE**'No justification for violence' – Push to make smacking a criminal offence – A Current Affair**

13 October 2022

Presenter Chris O'Keefe

Smacking your child has become a bit of a taboo. Is it necessary discipline or should it be illegal? Well, there's now a push to make smacking a criminal offense in Australia, and someone who believes it absolutely should be illegal is Dr. Justin Coulson, a parenting expert and star of Nine's program, Parental Guidance. I spoke with him late today.

Justin, thank you for joining us. Parents have been smacking their kids for really centuries. Why does that have to change?

Dr Justin Coulson:

Well, there's not a shred of credible evidence to support its use. It's an ineffective way of disciplining. There are far better disciplinary strategies that are out there, but the message that it conveys is what I'm most concerned about. Essentially, it says, I love you, but I'm gonna hurt you. We hear that in a range of other contexts where that's inappropriate. Domestic and family violence being the most obvious and provocative one, we can do better.

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Our children deserve better, and smacking is linked to a host of negative outcomes in children.

Presenter Chris O'Keefe

Well, most of us were smacked as kids. I certainly was, and every time I was smacked, I deserved it. I turned out okay.

Dr Justin Coulson:

I hear that a lot. I was smacked as a child and I turned out okay. A couple of things on this. First off, we don't really know how we would've turned out if we weren't smacked. We were, the research evidence shows frequent smacking doubles, if not more doubles the risk of anxiety and depression in adulthood. It's associated with impacts on social relationships, ruptures the relationship between parent and child. There's no justification for violence. I can't say this anymore emphatically, and I'm astounded, Chris. I'm just astounded at how hard Australians will fight for their right to hit a child if I hit my wife because she quote unquote deserved it.

And, and let's face it, we all have a different threshold for what deserving this is when it comes to violence. If I hit my wife, I will be taken to court and charged because of family and domestic violence.

If I hit you in the shops or down at the park or at the beach because you do something that I find offensive, you can and probably will take me to court and have me charged with assault. If I kick my dog because it's barking too much, I'll be charged with animal cruelty. And yet here I am. Let's say I've got a toddler, two years old. I'm more than double my toddler's height. I'm probably six to 10 times my toddler's weight, and it's perfectly legal for me to hit my child because they quote unquote deserved it. Nobody, nobody deserves to be hit.

What an outrage. What an absolute

Presenter Chris O'Keefe

But, but Justin, hang on a second. We're...

Dr Justin Coulson:

I fundamentally reject it. Fundamentally reject it.

TRIAL SAMPLE**Presenter Chris O'Keefe**

But we're... we're not talking about child abuse, so my wife and I have talked about this.

Dr Justin Coulson:

No, we're not. We're talking about hitting.

Presenter Chris O'Keefe

We've got a, we've got a young son. He's a bit young for this, but we've talked about circumstances in which he might put his hand in a boiling pot of water or put a knife into a toaster. Are you really saying that a smack on the back of the hand is off limits should be made illegal?

Dr Justin Coulson:

I don't understand why we have this fascination with hitting when our children are in danger. If your child's running towards the road, you don't hit them. You pick them up and move them away from the road. Kids see what we do. They follow it. If we keep hitting our kids, they're gonna keep on saying, I was hit as a child and I turned out fine, and they're gonna keep hitting their kids, but we have better solutions. And the research shows that those better solutions aren't just better in the moment. They're better for the rest of our children's lives. They do better at school. They do better in their relationships. They do better when it comes to mental health.

The absence of mental illness across the board. Children who are not hit do better. They're less likely to end up in jail. They're less likely to do alcohol and other drugs. They're more likely to behave pro socially. There just isn't the evidence to support it. And there's warehouses full of evidence for other forms of parental discipline where we teach and guide and instruct our children to live in in better ways.

Presenter Chris O'Keefe

You're seriously saying a parent who gives a light slap on the back of a hand to a child who's about to do something dangerous, that parent should be investigated by the police because smacking should be made illegal.

TRIAL SAMPLE**Dr Justin Coulson:**

We're not suggesting here that we should remove children from their parents or remove parents from their children. We're not suggesting that parents should be put into jail because they've given their child a slap. What we're suggesting is that when, when we as a society say, we don't accept this behaviour anymore, then we can offer support. We can offer, uh, intervention. We can step in and say, 'Hey, we can help you to do things better because there are better ways.'

Presenter Chris O'Keefe

You have six daughters yourself. Have you ever smacked any of those?

Dr Justin Coulson:

I'm sorry to say that. I have. In fact, after one smacking episode, I quit my career as a former radio announcer for one of Australia's biggest radio stations. I went back to school and I studied psychology for eight and a half years so that I could learn how to be a better dad because I saw what it was doing to me, to my wife, and to my family. That one decision has fundamentally changed my life course and brought my family together. We don't hit, we don't need to. There are far better things to do and it makes families stronger. It makes our kids stronger.

Dr Justin Coulson:

It makes our society stronger when we don't use violence.

The A Current Affair interview from which this transcript was made can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNnfITEjz-w&t=169s>

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Some stills from the interview with Dr Justin Coulson

