

Liebe 10 c,

dies ist der letzte Arbeitsauftrag, den ich euch aufgrund der Coronabedingungen geben darf/muss. Ihr verlasst unsere Schule in den kommenden Tagen und tretet entweder in das Berufsleben ein, oder besucht eine weiterführende Schule.

Natürlich hätte ich die letzten Tage viel lieber gemeinsam mit euch Englisch und Sport gemacht als euch Aufgaben zukommen zu lassen. Auch, dass eure Abschlussfeier ausfallen muss macht mich traurig.

Ich habe die vergangenen zwei Jahre sehr gerne in eurer Klasse unterrichtet und euch alle, als Gruppe und einzeln, schätzen gelernt.

Ich wünsche euch für die Zukunft alles Gute und würde mich freuen euch wieder zu sehen.

Liebe Grüße

Steffen Burkhardt

Bitte bearbeitet, sofern ihr die vorherigen Aufträge vollständig bearbeitet habt die folgenden Aufgaben:

1. Look up all the unknown words in the "Word Bank" boxes. You can use a dictionary or ask Dr. Google.
2. Answer the following questions.
  - a. There are two types of newspapers. Name and explain them.
  - b. One "Info" box names different types of articles. Name and explain them
3. On page 20 you find a box with vocabulary in exercise 3a. Translate and learn these words.
4. Read all the Info boxes and make sure, you understand them.
5. Do all the exercises on pages 18 to 23. Answer in full sentences.

→ S5

**Task 2: Analysis of a newspaper article**

→ P. 60

**1** Read the newspaper article and look at the assignment.**US gun control laws face legal challenge***Security guard claims he needs weapon to protect his family*

In what was being billed as the most important firearms ruling in a generation, the US supreme court was set to begin hearing a case last Tuesday that will decide whether Americans have a personal right to own guns.

The city of Washington DC has outlawed gun possession for more than 30 years, but a 65-year-old security guard is challenging the rule, which he says prevents him from keeping a gun at home to protect his family. If the supreme court strikes down the ban, considered the nation's strictest gun law, the floodgates could open for tests on rules limiting gun ownership.

Bankrolling the court challenge is Robert Levy, a lawyer, who believes the Washington ban violates the gun rights set out in the second amendment of the US constitution. Regardless of which side the court supports, both the gun rights and gun control movements are bracing for a political upheaval. "It is a potentially huge, landmark decision, maybe the only decision in our lifetime in which the supreme court will tell us what the original meaning of the constitution is without being impeded by precedents," said Randy Barnett, a Georgetown University law professor.

The US gun rights movement has grown increasingly powerful despite the number of shootings in schools, including the Columbine massacre nine years ago and the murders at Virginia Tech University. The death toll in the US from firearms far outranks other western countries. About four of every 100,000 Americans were killed by guns in 2002, compared with just 0.15 in England and Wales, according to the UK-based Gun Control Network.

Lawyers for the city are conscious of the recent string of massacres in the US. They argue that the handgun ban is reasonable in the light of the danger posed by a high crime rate. "Preventing [serious] harm is not just a legitimate goal; it is a governmental duty of the highest order," the city's legal team wrote to the high court.

But Dick Heller, the security guard bringing the lawsuit, cites the local crime rate as a justification for keeping a gun at home. "I want to be able to defend myself and my wife from violent criminals, and the constitution says I have a right to do that by keeping a gun in my home," he said when the supreme court agreed to hear the case in November.

Other critics of the Washington ban view outbreaks of violence in the US as proof that gun control laws have failed. "If you look at crime rates, [Washington] DC's crime rate skyrocketed after the ban was put in place," said Andrew Arulanandam, spokesman for the National Rifle Association. "We believe it's [because] people didn't have the means of defending themselves." [...]

But the Democrats Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have quietly supported the city's position. A ruling that supports individual gun rights would force both to address gun control, an issue their party has played down in recent years as rightwing activists have fuelled the strength of the gun rights movement.

Elana Schor, *The Guardian Weekly*, March 21, 2008

- 7 floodgate *Schleuse*  
 8 to bankroll to provide funds  
 10 to brace for to prepare for  
 13 to impede *behindern*  
 13 precedent an earlier decision  
 29 to skyrocket to increase rapidly  
 35 to fuel *anheizen*

When a newspaper article is to be analysed, a typical assignment could be:

- Analyse how the text is structured.
- Analyse the typical features of this newspaper article.
- Analyse the language of this article. What rhetorical devices does the writer use to make her article more effective?

**2** Here is a step-by-step approach to the analysis of the structure.

- Establish the text type. Is the above article from a quality paper or from a popular paper?

**TIP**

Is the text a news story, a news report, an editorial, a column or a human interest story? Provide proof from the text. Read the info box for more help.

→ 517

**Types of newspaper**

Quality papers strictly separate fact and opinion and are geared for an educated and relatively informed readership. They tend to use complex language. Popular papers often mix fact and opinion and tend to use simple syntax and colloquial language.

**Typical types of articles:**

- \* A news report sticks to facts only and avoids additional information.
- \* A news story is usually longer than a report and does include background information.
- \* A human interest story presents a general problem from the perspective of one individual.
- \* An editorial offers views and opinions on current events. It typically represents the newspaper's position.
- \* A column represents one journalist's views or opinions on a current event; unlike in an editorial the writer may make use of the first person pronoun 'I'.

b) Below you will find quotes from other newspaper articles covering the same event as the article above. Try to establish the text type and possibly the type of newspaper with the help of the information above. Give reasons for your decision.

Thirty-thousand Americans are killed by guns every year — on the job, walking to school, at the shopping mall. The Supreme Court on Thursday all but ensured that even more Americans will die senselessly with its wrongheaded and dangerous ruling striking down key parts of the District of Columbia's gun-control law.

So the issue for me is not about gun ownership. It's about too much firepower in the wrong hands, and too-easy access to guns by criminals and the mentally unstable through loopholes, such as gun shows where background checks are not required.

Self-protection and protection of neighbors and country are American rights, and guns are the most effective protection. Now, the Supreme Court has confirmed this.

For years, (Heller) carried a gun every day at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judicial Center, yet he still had to turn over his sidearm and bullets at the end of each workday and go home, defenseless.



c) Analyse the structure of the article.

**INFO**

Information in a newspaper article is often arranged in the form of an **inverted pyramid**. The most important information comes first, less important information (i.e. additional or background information) comes towards the end of the article. The first paragraph usually answers all the 'wh'-questions.

1. Show that the first two paragraphs in the above article answer all the 'wh'-questions:

who: \_\_\_\_\_

what: \_\_\_\_\_

when: \_\_\_\_\_

where: \_\_\_\_\_

why: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What information is contained in the last paragraph? Why is it less important?

### 3 Analysis

→ p.69, p.78

#### WORD BANK

- in the third/fourth/fifth paragraph of the article
- in the following/ensuing/next/subsequent paragraph
- after that/thereafter/subsequently
- what follows/ensues/comes next is a quote/background information on/...
- the paragraph contains information on/presents the views of/informs readers about/highlights the situation/sums up the situation/sheds additional light on/provides information on/also includes information on

allusive containing indirect references  
elliptical deliberately leaving out words  
succinct expressed in a brief and clear way

3. Read the six paragraphs in the main body of the article quite carefully. What information do they contain? Write keywords in the margin.
4. Write a coherent text analysing the structure of the article. Use phrases from the box to avoid repetition.

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### 3 What are the typical features of this article?



When working on a question like this you should include the following aspects:

- the form of the inverted pyramid
- headline and sub-headline (see a) below)
- strict separation between fact and opinion (see b) below)
- writing for a specific readership (see c) below)

#### a) Analyse the headline and the sub-headline. Are they



allusive • curious • elliptical • emotional • exaggerated •  
humorous • informative • playful • precise • puzzling •  
sensational • succinct • surprising

Give reasons.

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→ p.75

#### b) Analyse how the author avoids giving her own opinion by comparing the original sentences from the newspaper article with similar sentences and explaining what means she uses to strictly separate between fact and opinion or bias.

Example:

1. – "I want to be able to defend myself and my wife from violent criminals, and the constitution says I have a right to do that [...]," he said (ll. 25–27)  
– He argued that the constitution guaranteed the right of self-protection.

*The use of direct speech has greater authenticity and immediacy than reported speech. It gives the reader the chance to draw his or her own conclusions regarding the choice of words, the strength of the argument, interpretation, the credibility of the speaker, etc. A sentence in reported speech, by contrast, often reads like an interpretation of the interviewee.*

2. – "In what was being billed as the most important firearms ruling in a generation, the US supreme court ..." (ll. 1–3)  
– In the most important firearms ruling in a generation, the US supreme court ...

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3. – “If the supreme court strikes down the ban, considered the nation’s strictest gun law, the floodgates could open ...” (ll. 6–7)  
 – If the supreme court strikes down the nation’s strictest gun law, the floodgates will open ...

4. – “... Robert Levy, a lawyer, [...] believes the Washington ban violates gun rights.” (ll. 8–9)  
 – Robert Levy, a lawyer, claims the Washington ban violates gun rights.

5. – “Regardless of which side the court supports, both the gun rights and gun control movements are bracing for a political upheaval.” (ll. 9–11)  
 – Regardless of which side the court supports, there will be great political changes.

- c) Analyse the choice of words in the quotes below from other newspaper articles. Explain why certain words are not purely factual or neutral. Come up with an alternative to make the sentence objective and unbiased.

Example:

1. Victory in DC vs. Heller was pulled off by a small **gang** of philosophically dedicated lawyers.

*The word “gang” carries strong undertones of an illegal, potentially criminal organisation or group. It reminds one of the outlaws of the Wild West, not of highly professional lawyers.*

Alternative: group

2. The shoot-out between gun-control forces and gun-rights defenders moves into the Supreme Court.

3. The city of Washington claimed its gun ban helped protect citizens. But the facts show how foolish it is to rely on gun control for safety.

4. Pro-rights forces will use the case to benefit the nation and protect our liberty.

#### WORD BANK

word/expression/  
 phrase/term • the  
 word is a misnomer/  
 an anachronism/  
 an exaggeration/  
 the use of the wrong  
 register • it carries  
 slight/strong /positive/  
 negative/distinctive/  
 striking undertones  
 • it evokes/stirs up  
 ... images/it has  
 connotations of ...  
 • as a reader one  
 associates it with/  
 is reminded of/  
 immediately thinks  
 of ...

d) Examine how different conclusions are drawn from the same facts. Read the info box first.

### INFO

#### Cause and effect – drawing different conclusions from facts

A serious newspaper presents facts but is very careful about drawing conclusions or suggesting logical connections between two facts. It will instead quote experts or people directly involved in an event to make these logical connections. This article is a good example.

Undisputed facts:

1. Washington DC has a ban on handguns.
2. Washington DC has a high crime rate.

A debatable conclusion: There is a logical connection between these two facts.

Now match the following sentences with the relevant passages from the article. Some of the sentences have no counterpart in the text. If this is the case, write 'not found'. Add whose opinion the author quotes.

### INFO

On June 26, 2008, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution protects an individual's right to possess a firearm for private use. It held that a regulation that requires all firearms to be kept "unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock" is unconstitutional.

Example:

1. Washington DC has a high crime rate, it therefore needs a ban on handguns.

*[Lawyers for the city] argue that the handgun ban is reasonable in the light of the danger posed by a high crime rate.*

2. Washington DC has a high crime rate because it has a ban on handguns.

3. After Washington DC banned handguns, the crime rate rose.

4. Without a ban on handguns, Washington DC's crime rate would be even higher.

5. Washington DC has a high crime rate, therefore there shouldn't be a ban on handguns.

6. Even though there are a lot of shootings in the US, many people don't want bans on handguns.

7. It is a city's duty to reduce violence.

8. A handgun ban is useless, because it leads to more violence.

- p. 73 e) This report about an American court case was written for the Guardian Weekly, a British newspaper. Go through the article again and underline passages (in red) that illustrate that the article is written for a British, not an American readership. Underline sentences (in blue) which the author includes in order to make Britons understand why this is an important court case.

→ p. 82, p. 85, p. 98

- f) ☐ Write a coherent text analysing the typical features of the article.



## 4 Analyse the language of this article.

→ S10

→ p.69, p.75

## INFO

## Language in newspaper articles

Quality newspapers consistently use formal and precise language, but also everyday English (i.e. no legal jargon or technical terms for experts). They employ complex syntax and rhetorical devices, consistent with the level of their readership. Emotionally charged language is avoided.

Popular papers may use more colloquial, sometimes emotionally charged language, simpler syntax and sometimes play with words or expressions to entertain their readership. The use of rhetorical devices is consistent with the type of readership they have.

- a) In Part 3 above (What are the typical features of this article?) you noted some points about the language. Collect ideas from there that you can incorporate into your analysis.

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- b) Examine the use of register. On the left are quotes from the newspaper article. Match them with the list of terms on the right. Describe the effect of the choice of words. Give complete answers so that you will end up with a full text.

"the most important firearms ruling" (l. 1)  
 "floodgates" (l. 7)  
 "landmark decision" (l. 11)  
 "massacre" (l. 20)  
 "the constitution says I have a right to do that" (l. 26)

- legal terminology
- formal, standard English
- emotionally charged language
  - metaphor
  - spoken English

## WORD BANK

The article is written in ... • ... is used in rare instances • Occasionally ... is employed

→ p.89

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- c) [📄] Examine the syntax of the article. First study the information in the box below. Then go through the article once more and find suitable examples of complex sentence structures.

→ p.86, p.123

## INFO

## Complex sentence structures

The author might use/make use of/work with:

- **subordinate clauses:** *The man that greeted us at the entrance is a colleague of mine. Since he was the boss, no one objected to his plans.*
- **participle constructions:** *The man sitting next to me looked tired. This text, taken from a collection of short stories, is about the relationship between a young couple.*
- **infinitive constructions:** *He hailed a taxi in order to get to his appointment on time.*

- d) Examine how the author avoids repetition by making use of various synonyms. Go through the text and find words relating to the word-field 'law'.

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- e) Plan the structure of your text including the different aspects mentioned under a)–d).

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- f) [📄] Write a coherent text analysing the language of the newspaper article.

→ p.94