



# SMART JUNIORS 2

Full Smartphone Access:  
Is it Harmful or Helpful to the Youth?

**Lesson 34**  
**Critical Thinking**



## Identifying Strong Arguments

A **strong argument** gives good evidence that makes you believe or agree with it. Which of the following arguments is stronger?

Argument 1

Exercise is good for your heart.

Argument 2

Exercising is good for the heart. A study involving 1,000 participants over five years showed that people who exercise regularly have a significantly lower risk of developing heart disease compared to those who do not exercise.



## Identifying Strong Arguments

To create a **strong argument**, it is crucial to use **effective evidence** in the forms of:

- facts
- statistics
- expert opinions
- quotations
- examples
- personal experience



## Strong Arguments Must-Haves



A **fact** is something that is true and can be shown to be true with evidence or real-world proof.

For example:

Smartphones have become an integral part of modern life. In fact, smartphone ownership is currently on the rise. A survey from 2021 also shows that an impressive 85% of adults in the United States own a smartphone. These devices have revolutionized how we communicate, access information, and engage with the digital world.



## Strong Arguments Must-Haves



**Statistics** is a collection of numerical facts or measurements to better understand information, make informed choices, and back up arguments or ideas.

For example:

Smartphones have become an integral part of modern life. In fact, smartphone ownership is currently on the rise. A survey from 2021 also shows that an impressive 85% of adults in the United States own a smartphone. These devices have revolutionized how we communicate, access information, and engage with the digital world.



## Strong Arguments Must-Haves



An **expert opinion** is a judgment, insight, and recommendation provided by individuals who are recognized as authorities or specialists in a particular field or subject.

For example:

Dr. Jane Reynolds believes that climate change is the most important global problem right now. She has done a lot of research and has been working in this field for many years. She's written many articles and books about it, so she knows what she's talking about. Dr. Reynolds says that all the evidence shows we need to act right away to reduce the bad effects of climate change.



## Strong Arguments Must-Haves



A **quotation** is a word-for-word reproduction of someone else's statement or written words. It is typically enclosed in quotation marks and attributed to the original source.

For example:

You might know Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple. He once said, "The only way to do great work is to love what you do." It means when you really like what you're doing, you can do amazing stuff. It's like having fun while working, and that can lead to awesome results! So, when you enjoy what you do, you can achieve big things.



## Strong Arguments Must-Haves



An **example** is a specific instance or illustration that serves to explain, clarify, or support a point or argument.

For example:

Teamwork is essential, much like a soccer team where every player has a specific job. Think about Spain's national soccer team during the 2010 World Cup. They won because each player knew their role: the goalkeeper defended the net, defenders protected the goal, midfielders controlled the game, and forwards scored goals. This proves that teamwork isn't just a theory; it's a strategy that leads to victory, not only in sports but also in everyday life.





## Strong Arguments Must-Haves



A **personal experience** is an event or situation that an individual has lived through or encountered in their life. These are valuable because they can make a point more relatable and convincing.

For example:

I remember when I was swamped with assignments, and distractions seemed to be everywhere. At that moment, I realized the importance of staying focused and creating a distraction-free study environment. By eliminating distractions and finding the right study techniques, I improved my grades and felt less stressed. It taught me that even on the toughest days, we can find strategies to overcome challenges and achieve our goals.



## LET'S ANALYZE

- **Read and analyze the evidence in the passage. Tell whether they are a fact, statistics, expert opinion, quotation, example, or personal experience.**

1 Some people argue that giving the youth unlimited access to smartphones can greatly benefit their education. It's true; smartphones have loads of educational apps that can make learning fun. However, there's a downside to this. Just as these teenagers have too much freedom with their smartphones, so too might they use them to cheat on tests. A study conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2022 found that 19% of U.S. teens say they have cheated on a test using their smartphone. This includes using their phones to look up answers, messaging other students for answers, or taking photos of test questions.

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## Check the final arguments and evidence.

### Main Argument

Young people should be given full access to smartphones.

### Argument 1

Giving the youth unlimited access to smartphones can greatly benefit their education.

### Author's Counter-Argument

However, there's a downside to this. They might use them to cheat on tests or come across things they shouldn't see.

### Author's Evidence

*(statistics; example)*

1. A study conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2022 found that 19% of U.S. teens say they have cheated on a test using their smartphone.
2. This includes using their phones to look up answers, messaging other students for answers, or taking photos of test questions.

## LET'S ANALYZE

- **Read and analyze the evidence in the passage. Tell whether they are a fact, statistics, expert opinion, quotation, example, or personal experience.**
- 2 Many people support the idea of youngsters having complete access to smartphones because it helps them stay connected with family and friends. In spite of this convenience, it comes with a serious risk - cyberbullying. The more time they spend online, the more likely they are to encounter hurtful messages from others, which can have severe emotional consequences. Just take Emily's daughter, Sarah, as an example. Sarah, who had unrestricted smartphone access, went through cyberbullying. Her classmates sent her rude messages on social media, and as a result, it hurt her self-confidence and made her anxious about using her phone.
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## Check the final arguments and evidence.

### Main Argument

Young people should be given full access to smartphones.

### Argument 2

Having complete access to smartphones helps them stay connected with family and friends.

### Author's Counter-Argument

In spite of this convenience, it comes with a serious risk - cyberbullying. They are likely to encounter hurtful messages from others, which can have severe emotional consequences.

### Author's Evidence

*(personal experience)*

Sarah, who had unrestricted smartphone access, went through cyberbullying. Her classmates sent her rude messages on social media, and as a result, it hurt her self-confidence and made her anxious about using her phone.

## LET'S ANALYZE

- **Read and analyze the evidence in the passage. Tell whether they are a fact, statistics, expert opinion, quotation, example, or personal experience.**

3 Smartphones offer plenty of fun and entertainment with games, videos, and apps. Supporters say it's a great way for these young people to relax and enjoy themselves. But here's the catch: too much smartphone time can lead to addiction and harm their schoolwork. In fact, a recent survey by Common Sense Media tells us that 72% of teens check their phones at least once an hour, and 75% say they have been distracted from their homework by their phones.

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## Check the final arguments and evidence.

### Main Argument

Young people should be given full access to smartphones.

### Argument 3

Smartphones offer plenty of fun and entertainment with games, videos, and apps.

### Author's Counter-Argument

Too much smartphone time can lead to addiction and harm their schoolwork.

### Author's Evidence

*(statistics)*

1. Common Sense Media tells us that 72% of teens check their phones at least once an hour.
2. 75% say they have been distracted from their homework by their phones.

# WRITING TASK



The table provides us with clear evidence for our counter-argument writing.

Let's try to write a strong argument using the highlighted points.

Argument 1	Giving the youth unlimited access to smartphones can greatly benefit their education.
Author's Counter-Argument	However, there's a downside to this. They might use them to cheat on tests or come across things they shouldn't see.
Author's Evidence <i>(statistics; example)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A study conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2022 found that 19% of U.S. teens say they have cheated on a test using their smartphone.</li><li>2. This includes using their phones to look up answers, messaging other students for answers, or taking photos of test questions.</li></ol>

Some say that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

But there's a problem. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

A study by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.





We include evidence to make strong arguments to persuade readers that our opinion is true or believable. Complete the table with your counter-arguments and evidence in the student's book on page 71.

<p><b>Main Argument</b></p>	<p><b>Argument 1</b></p>	<p>Students should wear school uniforms to ensure equality among all, no matter how much money they have.</p>
<p>Students should be required to wear school uniforms.</p>	<p><b>Author's Counter-Argument</b></p>	<hr/> <hr/>
	<p><b>Author's Evidence</b> <i>(any type of evidence)</i></p>	<p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p>



# WHAT'S NEXT...

In the next lesson, we're going to  
learn about Reported Speech.

See you next time!