

ZOOS: MYTH AND REALITY / ZOOS CONNECT US TO THE NATURAL WORLD

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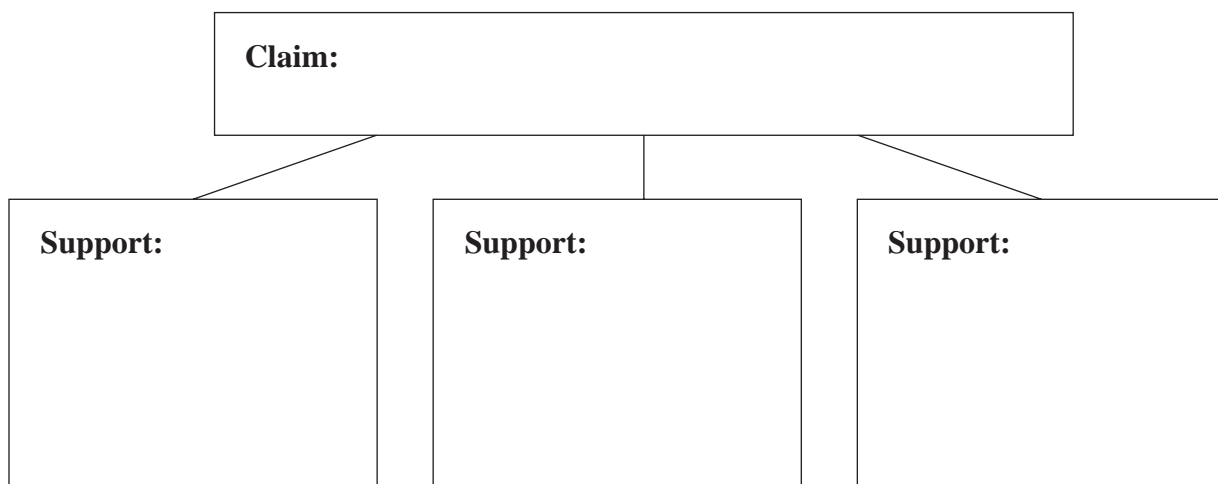
Elements of Nonfiction

ARGUMENT

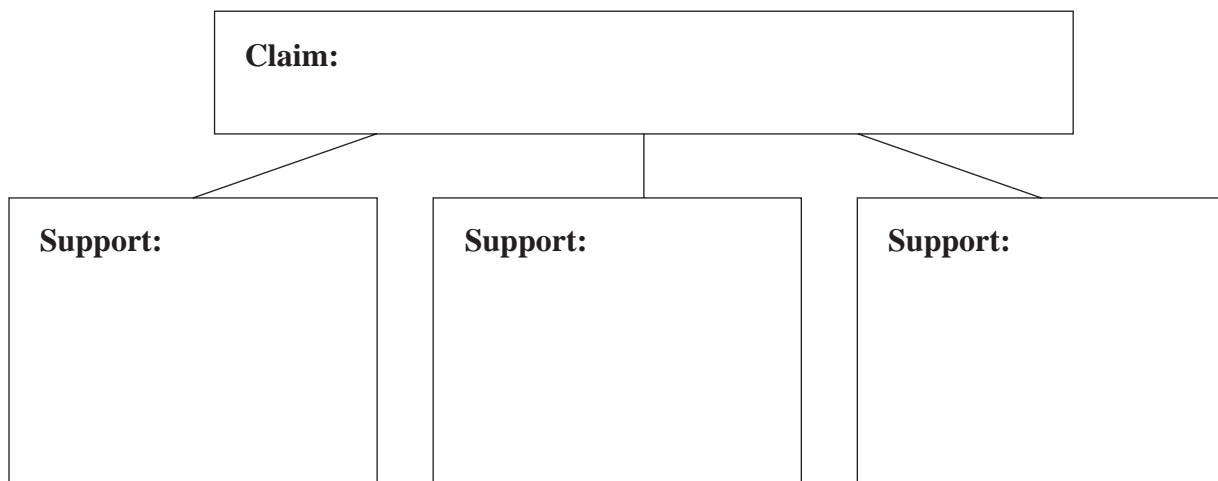
An **argument** is an opinion on an issue or problem. An effective argument is supported with evidence and reasons. An argument centers on a **claim** which is the writer's position on the topic. Any material that helps to prove the claim is support. Writers might use statistics, logic, experts, or examples to support their arguments.

Directions: Complete these charts to analyze each author's argument. Summarize the main claim that each author presents. Then describe three ways the author supports that claim.

Zoos: Myth and Reality



Zoos Connect Us to the Natural World



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Reading Skill

DISTINGUISH FACT AND OPINION

A **fact** is a statement that can be proved. You might prove a fact by reading a reliable source or talking with an expert. Other facts can be proven through personal observations, eyewitness accounts, or scientific experiments. An **opinion** is a belief, feeling, or thought about a topic. It cannot be proved and can vary from person to person.

Directions: Complete these charts to identify key facts and strong opinions in each article.

Zoos: Myth and Reality

| Facts | Opinions |
|-------|----------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Zoos Connect Us to the Natural World

| Facts | Opinions |
|-------|----------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

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Vocabulary Study

CONTEXT CLUES

A. Directions: As your teacher reads the passage, listen for each boldfaced word and clues to its meaning. Then discuss possible meanings for the word.

The role of the zoo in modern society is controversial. As with any issue about which there is both positive and negative **propaganda**, we must learn all the facts we can. On the one hand, some observers believe that many, if not most, zoo animals live in **deprivation** and that their physical and psychological needs are largely ignored. Others maintain that most zoos humanely care for animals in well-designed facilities. For many years, people knew little about the needs of wild animals. As a result, once strong and energetic animals would **languish** in captivity, confined in small, **sterile** cages that bore no resemblance to their natural habitats. The living conditions of wild animals in zoos were as different as possible from the conditions experienced by their **counterparts** in nature.

Over time, as more people lived in urban areas, they had less contact with nature. Wild animals from distant, **exotic** locations were exciting to people who had never seen them before. The kind of person who would **exploit** animals for money often did not take good care of them. Advocates for the well-being of wildlife frequently had little influence and saw few results for their efforts. They were often overwhelmed with the **futility** of trying to protect captive animals. Today, however, many people see zoos that are well designed and maintained as part of the solution for the humane treatment of captive animals.

B. Directions: Write each boldfaced word from Part A beside its definition.

1. _____ the condition of not having one's needs met; a lack of
2. _____ uselessness
3. _____ foreign, unusual, exciting
4. _____ information that supports a certain cause
5. _____ have the same functions and traits as another
6. _____ using for selfish purposes
7. _____ lost strength and vitality
8. _____ barren, lacking vitality

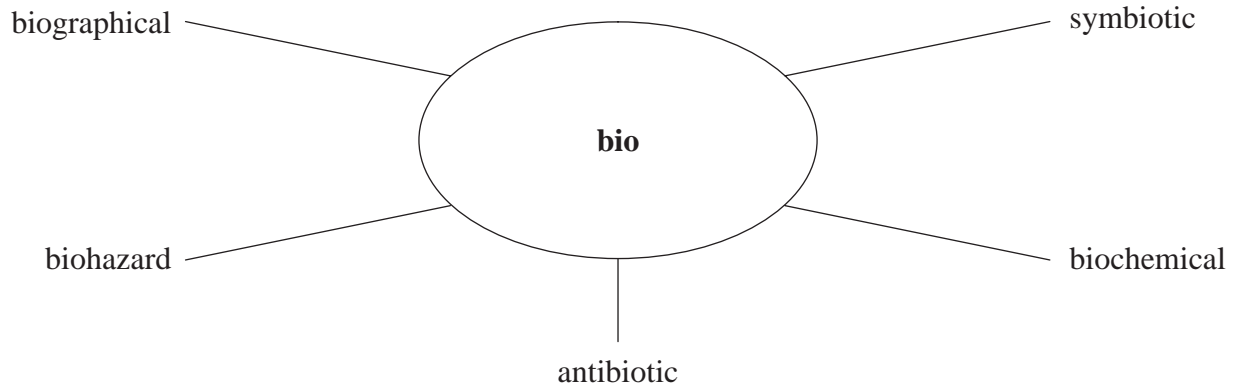
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Vocabulary Strategy

THE GREEK ROOT *bio*

Robert Laidlaw feels that many zoos fail to meet the biological needs of animals. The word *biological* contains the Greek root *bio*, which means “life.” You can use your understanding of this root along with context clues to help you figure out the meaning of other words formed from *bio*.



Directions: Use a dictionary to look up each word that appears in the web. Then decide which word best completes each sentence. Be ready to explain how the meaning of the root is reflected in each word.

1. Something that is dangerous to human beings or their environment is a _____.
2. In a _____ relationship, two animals live together closely in a way that benefits both of them.
3. An essay might combine _____ information about the author's life with facts and observations about other topics.
4. The field of _____ engineering involves finding ways to use or manage chemical substances found in living organisms.
5. An effective _____ is designed to kill harmful bacteria.

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Question Support

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

For questions 1–3, see page 977 of the Pupil Edition.

Directions: Answer each question.

- 4. Analyze Arguments** Write Laidlaw or Hutchins to identify the writer who makes each claim and provides each item of support.

- _____ Claim: Many zoos contribute to animal suffering.
- _____ Claim: Many zoos today provide humane settings for animals.
- _____ Support: Gorillas used to die in zoos, but they now thrive in well-designed exhibits.
- _____ Support: Many zoo enclosures, both new and old, are too small.
- _____ Support: More than 90 percent of mammals in accredited zoos were born in zoos, not the wild.
- _____ Support: Zoos often ignore the natural biology and behavior of animals and create exhibits that are attractive to visitors.
- _____ Support: The holding-areas, where many animals spend a lot of time, resemble prisons.
- _____ Support: Gorillas live longer lives in zoos today than they do in the wild.

- 5. Compare Scope** Complete these sentences about the scope of these articles.

The scope of an article is the range of topics it covers.

- The article by (Laidlaw/Hutchins) discusses a wider range of zoos.
- The article by (Laidlaw/Hutchins) discusses only accredited zoos in depth.
- I think that the article with a broader scope is (more/less) convincing because

- 6. Evaluate Fact and Opinion** Write **fact** or **opinion** to describe each statement.

- _____ “. . . vast numbers of zoo animals continue to endure lives of misery and deprivation” (Laidlaw)
- _____ “Only 16 species have established self-sustaining populations in the wild as a result of captive-breeding efforts . . .” (Laidlaw)
- _____ “So long as wild animals are kept in captivity, they ought to be treated humanely.” (Laidlaw)
- _____ “Even as late as the 1960s and ’70s, most zoo gorillas were kept singly or in pairs in small, sterile concrete and tile cages and fed inappropriate foods.” (Hutchins)
- _____ “In 2002, over 140 million people visited AZA zoos and aquariums...” (Hutchins)

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Reading Check

Directions: Recall the ideas in Rob Laidlaw’s online article and Michael Hutchins’s opinion piece. Then answer the questions in phrases or sentences.

1. In “Zoos: Myth and Reality,” what does Laidlaw say nearly every zoo claims?

2. Which zoo-related issue do most people seem to agree on, according to “Zoos: Myth and Reality”?

3. According to “Zoos: Myth and Reality,” what are some ways in which animals in amateur or roadside zoos are mistreated?

4. What kind of zoos does Hutchins focus on in “Zoos Connect Us to the Natural World”?

5. What does Hutchins say about zoo professionals in “Zoos Connect Us to the Natural World”?
