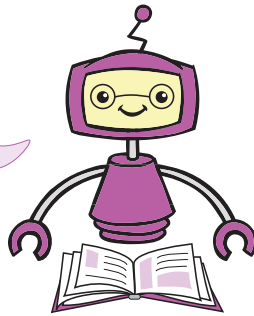


Harvest day

Did you know that deep underground somewhere in Norway there is a seedbank, where scientists are storing the seeds of a whole range of plants? If those species are wiped out, we will be able to resurrect them from that resource. But only if we remember how to grow things! Let's find out more about gardening in the new millenium!



LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 11

Learning Object 3: *I think this is easy*

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 2

Module 13 Work Sheet 3: *A lightbulb moment*

Work Sheet 4: *Reduce, reuse, recycle*

Module 14 Work Sheet 2: *Environmental crusader*

1

From little things ...

Have you ever tried to grow something in your own garden, or perhaps in a pot? Many people enjoy growing things, either for aesthetic purposes, to feed themselves and their families, or simply to enjoy a sense of personal achievement.

Growing fruits, vegetables and herbs has become an increasingly popular pastime for many Australians.

Did you know that one of the biggest booms in home vegetable gardening came about because of food shortages during World War II?

In January 1942, Australian Prime Minister John Curtin launched the 'Dig for Victory' campaign in Australia. He urged every householder to contribute to the war effort by growing vegetables for themselves, and to send to troops overseas.

In the same year, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) created Garden Army Week; thousands of people signed up, most of them women.

One newspaper urged gardeners to help each other to grow beans, turnips, onions and potatoes:

*The nation looks to you — the experienced gardener — for leadership in the Dig for Victory Campaign. Make your peacetime hobby your wartime duty.**

*Source: 'Dig for Victory' in *Western Mail*. Perth. 26 March 1942. p27.

These days, many people continue to enjoy producing at least some of their own fresh produce at home, although for very different reasons!

Gardening is no longer a 'duty' but a pleasurable pastime, or a lifestyle decision based on the consideration of ethical or economic factors.

A moral imperative

During the war, growing your own vegetables was promoted to householders as a moral imperative. That is, something they *should* do if they wanted to be considered good people: it was part of their 'wartime duty'.

While the arguments that are posited for and against organic gardening are quite different, they often draw on similar types of moral, ethical and highly emotive rhetorical devices to persuade people to join their cause.

In this work sheet, you're going to read two short texts, one arguing for and one against the importance of organic gardening.

Opinion pieces such as these often employ the following techniques:

- use of the first person voice
- use of subjective, personal language
- use of emotive language

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- use of the imperative voice, for example, 'We must change our ways.'
- a structure similar to that of a persuasive essay, with each point contributing to an overall conclusion that draws them together.

They sometimes employ:

- a critique of opposing arguments or evidence
- personal anecdotes as evidence.

Exercises

The following two texts are companion pieces, one arguing for, and one against, the benefits of organic gardening.

Read the text, using all the reading strategies you have learnt to date.

After you have read the text, you will be asked to complete two kinds of reading exercises — comprehension questions and critical-thinking questions.



SETUJU

Kita semua tahu mengapa kita harus menanam dan makan bahan makanan organik. Singkatnya: bahan makanan organik lebih baik

untuk kita, lebih baik untuk bumi, dan lebih baik untuk masa depan.

Menanam bahan makananmu sendiri menghubungkan kamu dengan bumi. Kalau kamu beruntung, kamu bisa meluangkan sedikit waktumu setiap hari untuk menyirami, menyiangi, memupuk atau menanam. Mengerjakan semua itu sendiri dan menjamin kelangsungan hidup dari hasil keringatmu sendiri.

Buah, sayuran dan rempah yang tersedia di swalayan dekat rumahmu bisa datang dari mana saja.

Mereka mungkin dimodifikasi secara genetik. Ada kemungkinan bahwa mereka disemprot dengan bahan kimia untuk membantunya tumbuh, untuk menghalau hama, atau untuk membuat mereka kelihatan lebih segar lebih lama. Pemasaran massal telah sejak dulu mencoba meyakinkan orang untuk membeli buah-buahan dan sayur-sayuran yang diproduksi secara massal. Bahan makanan yang tidak berjiwa dan tanpa rasa. Zat yang kelihatan seperti bahan makanan, tapi tanpa warna, tanpa semangat, tumbuh menggunakan bahan-bahan kimia, dan tidak memberi kepuasan kalau disantap.

Buah-buahan dan sayuran organik yang ditanam di kebun belakang rumahmu sendiri, atau di pot, lebih segar. Bahan makanan itu datang dari bumi langsung

ke piringmu. Kamu tahu apa yang membantunya tumbuh, dan bisa dijamin bahwa apa yang didapat dari bahan makanan itu bergizi dan enak rasanya.

Kepuasan menggunakan daun kemangi dan tomat hasil kebun di dalam pizzamu sukar digambarkan. Dan rasanya? Luar biasa! Kalau kamu benar-benar peduli pada Bumi, dan pada anak-anakmu, kamu akan melakukan apa pun yang kamu bisa untuk mendukung penanaman bahan makanan organik. Itu adalah satu-satunya harapan kita untuk mendapat masa depan yang sehat dan menyenangkan.

Adam

TIDAK SETUJU

'Bahan makanan organik' hanyalah salah satu taktik pemasaran yang tujuannya membuat orang membayar lebih banyak untuk mendapat lebih sedikit. Lebih sedikit jumlahnya, dan lebih sedikit kualitasnya. Apakah kamu pernah benar-benar memperhatikan sayur-sayuran organik yang tersedia di pasar swalayanmu? Kalau dibandingkan dengan bahan makanan biasa, mereka kelihatan lebih kecil, lebih pucat, dan seringkali dipenuhi dengan keriput-keriput dan bintik-bintik aneh.

Waktu aku masih kecil, semua orang mempunyai kebun sayuran di halaman belakang rumah, tempat untuk membuat kompos, dan, kalau beruntung, seekor atau dua ekor ayam. Tapi tidak ada omong kosong mengenai apa yang disebut cara tanam

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organik. Kalau kebunmu memerlukan pupuk, kamu memberinya pupuk. Kalau kebunmu ada hamanya, kamu bunuh dengan pestisida. Dan kalau ada gulma, kamu siangi dengan tangan atau kamu semprot dengan racun tanaman. Dengan menggunakan cara-cara ini, kakekku menghasilkan tomat yang paling sehat, paling segar, dan paling enak di daerah tempat kami tinggal untuk memberi makan keluarganya selama lebih dari lima puluh tahun.

Dan sekarang ada banyak kepanikan mengenai bahan makanan GM. Ketakutan, dan memang hanya itulah, yang menggerakkan kampanye melawan tanaman yang dimodifikasi secara genetik. Ketakutan akan perubahan; ketakutan akan sains; ketakutan akan masa depan. Tanaman GM dikembangkan dengan

tujuan untuk menjamin bahwa ada cukup bahan makanan sehat yang diproduksi bagi penduduk Bumi yang terus bertambah.

Pendukung cara tanam organik ingin orang percaya bahwa kita seharusnya melupakan saja semua kemajuan yang telah kita capai di abad yang lalu berkenaan dengan cara orang bertani. Apa lagi yang harus kita singkirkan? Telepon? Bohlam? Internet? Aku kira tidak. Sadar dan ciumlah wangi mawar (yang diberi pupuk dan ditanam dengan cara GM)!

Evelyn

Exercise 1

Reading comprehension

First, let's see how well you have understood the text.

1.1 What are the main ideas in the text? Summarise, in English, the main ideas in each paragraph of the text.

SETUJU

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

Paragraph 4

Paragraph 5

TIDAK SETUJU

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 4

1.3 What three people, places or things does Adam say organic food is 'better' for?

1.4 What reasons does Adam give for spraying food with chemicals?

1.5 According to Evelyn, what fears do people have about GM (genetically modified) food?

1.6 What gardening practices did Evelyn's grandfather use?

Exercise 2

Creative and critical thinking

Both of the authors use persuasive-writing techniques to try to convince their readers that they are right.

A good way to develop your own critical- and creative-thinking skills is to develop counterarguments. It is useful to try doing this even when you agree with the other person's point of view. In fact, coming up with arguments against your own views is a great critical-thinking skill to develop; it helps you to see the weaknesses in your own arguments, so that you can improve them!

Think about why this argument is effective. What strategies, evidence or argument is the author using to try to convince you about their point of view?

Write at least one counterargument for each statement. Answer in English, using quotations from the text where appropriate.

2.1 'Kalau kamu benar-benar peduli pada Bumi, dan pada anak-anakmu, kamu akan melakukan apa pun yang kamu bisa untuk mendukung penanaman bahan makanan organik.' (Adam)

2.1.1 Think about why this argument is effective. What strategies or evidence is the author using to try to convince you about their point of view?

2.1.2 Write at least one counterargument for this statement. Answer in English, using quotations from the text where appropriate.

2.2 'Pendukung cara tanam organik ingin orang percaya bahwa kita seharusnya melupakan saja semua kemajuan yang telah kita capai di abad yang lalu berkenaan dengan cara orang bertani. Apa lagi yang harus kita singkirkan? Telepon? Bohlam? Internet?' (Evelyn)

2.2.1 Think about why this argument is effective. What strategies or evidence is the author using to try to convince you about their point of view?

2.2.2 Write at least one counterargument for this statement. Answer in English, using quotations from the text where appropriate.
