

Student Model 1

Persuasive Essay Read the essay. Evaluate it for voice and style.

Block That Sun

Why do so many teens still lie in the sun with little or no sunblock trying to get a tan? Our parents didn't know any better when they were our age. But we know now just how dangerous it is.

More than a million people in the United States develop skin cancer every year. Indeed, it is the most prevalent type of carcinoma. All of the sunburns you get throughout your life add up to an increased risk of skin cancer. If you have fair skin, you're at a higher risk. But dark skin is not a guarantee against cancer.

Avoiding the sun is the best defense. At least, that's what the American Academy of Dermatology says. Aim for early detection. Get to know your skin. Check it every couple of months. Have you acquired any new moles? Everyone's got moles. They're usually harmless. But do you have more than 100 moles? Then you're at high risk for skin cancer. Heredity is a factor too. Has a close relative of yours had skin cancer? Then you're at a higher risk. Genetic factors influence the occurrence of cells that metastasize and are highly anaplastic.

There are three types of skin cancer: basal cell, squamous cell, and melanoma. Basal-cell cancer is the most common type. It grows very slowly and hardly ever spreads to other parts of the body. It starts out on the skin's surface, though it may eventually affect nerves and bone below the skin. It's not life threatening—though it's not exactly fun, either, you know what I mean?

Squamous-cell cancer is the second most common. It's usually located on the rim of the ear, the face, or the lips and mouth. It can spread, so you wanna catch the bump or red, scaly patch early.

Melanoma's the most dangerous form of skin cancer. Left untreated, it can spread to the internal organs. But don't panic. Even melanoma is almost 100 percent curable if caught early enough.

You say you'll never get skin cancer because you tan instead of burning? Get real! A tan offers small protection. "The sun's ultraviolet rays, which are the most damaging, can go through clothes," said dermatologist Fred Philbin. "A layer of darker skin will hardly slow them down."

To reduce your risk, put down that baby oil and pick up some SPF (Sun Protection Factor) 30 or higher sunblock. Wear a broad-brimmed hat and sunglasses, even if you think they look dorky. Try to stay out of the sun altogether between 11:00 a.m. and 3 p.m. And, I sincerely implore you, be not so foolish as to visit a tanning salon. Your skin will thank you now and tomorrow and twenty years from now.

Student Model 2

Persuasive Essay Read the essay. Evaluate it for voice and style.

Is a Chair a Person?

Have you ever noticed that the English language is full of sexist words? *Businessman, chairman, craftsman. Working man, manpower, mankind. The history of man, statesmen, forefathers.* To listen to our language, you might not know that women and girls exist.

That's a problem, because the words people hear affect the way they think. Language is how we organize the world. If the language we hear is inaccurate, then we have an inaccurate picture of the world. Sexist language is inaccurate. It leads listeners to think that everyone who works in a business or chairs a committee or makes crafts is male. It reduces their ability to see women and girls as people.

Nonsexist language, however, treats everyone equally. It shows respect for individuals. It expresses fairness and balance. One example of balance is the title "Ms." It means the same as "Mr." "Miss" and "Mrs." don't mean the same as "Mr." because they show whether a woman is single or married. Why is that the most important thing to know about a woman but not about a man?

"By participating in the reform of sexist usage, women have begun to gain power," says linguist Francine Frank.

Some people say that the whole subject isn't important enough to even discuss. They say that everybody knows "man" includes women. But that's simply not true. Many reading studies show that when people read the word "man," they picture a male in their minds. The term obscures the actions, the contributions, and sometimes the very existence of women.

Some say that nonsexist language is too awkward. They don't want to use "he or she." They don't like *salesperson, chairperson, or waitperson*. No problem. You can usually recast a sentence in the plural. That way, you can replace "he or she" with "they" and "his or her" with "their." You don't like "Each student put down his or her pencil"? Then replace it with "All the students put down their pencils." As for the "person" words, why not *sales rep, chair, and server*? The nonsexist versions are shorter than the terms they replace.

So please, in the words you write and the words you speak, try to avoid sexist language. You'll avoid leaving anyone out. You'll also reflect the real world more accurately.