

Giving reasons

Strong reasons versus weak reasons

A strong reason has the following qualities:

- it logically supports the opinion
- it is specific and states the idea clearly
- it is convincing to a majority of people

Example: Which reason is strong and which is weak? Explain.

Smoking should be banned in public because:

- it is bad
- it gives people bad breath and makes their teeth yellow
- secondhand, smoke is harmful for nonsmokers

Part 1: With your partner, think at least one strong reason for each resolution

1. Women should quit their job after they get married

REASON

2. Love is more important than money

REASON

3. It is better to be married than single

REASON

4. Writing by hand is better than writing by computer

REASON

Part 2: Now compare your reasons with the rest of the class and decide whose reasons are stronger and why

Ways to state reasons : review the following for linguistic scaffolding

- Comparison: X iser than Y. / X is more.....than Y.
- Cause and effect: X causes Y. / If you do X, then Y will happen.