

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

JSS 2

WEEK 4

DATE

### WRITING: SAMPLE OF ARGUMENTATIVE COMPOSITION

**Question:** The president of your Literary and Debating Club has requested that you participate in a proposed debate on the motion: Should Street Hawking be Abolished in Port Harcourt City? Write your speech either **FOR** or **AGAINST** the motion.

#### Outline

1. Caption/Salutation
2. Thesis: Hawking should be abolished.
3. Pollutes the environment.
4. Often leads to child abuse.
5. Distracts child education.
6. Causes road accidents.
7. Conclusion: it is undesirable and therefore should be abolished.

#### Sample Debate

SHOULD STREET HAWKING BE ABOLISHED IN PORT HARCOURT CITY?

The Chairman

Panel of Judges

Accurate Time keeper

Co-debaters

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I wish to present my argument on the topic: 'Should Hawking be Abolished in Port Harcourt City?' street hawking is a type of trading activity in which traders move around with their wares and sell them along the streets and sometimes along the highways. Parents and guardians often compel many children to hawk various items, including fruits, vegetables, snacks and household items. Hawking presents enormous hazards to life and the environment and I strongly believe that it should be abolished.

First, hawking leads to environmental pollution in the city. Most of the items sold by hawkers are consumed along the road by motorists and pedestrians alike. These consumers drop the wrappings or containers wherever they finish eating the content. Sometimes, even chunks of unfinished and stale food are carelessly dropped on our roads as a result of hawking. All the undesirable refuse of empty bottles, cans, paper and cellophane wrappers that litter our streets are the negative result of hawking on our environment. And these litters worsen the problem of flooding when they block the city

drainage. But without hawking, residents of the city would eat their meals at home or in the office and discard their litter appropriately.

Also, hawking should be abolished because it is a form of child labour and it encourages child abuse. Many hawkers are children and legal minors whom adults exploit for financial benefits. The law of the state ought to protect this category of defenseless persons, who would eventually become the future leaders, by abolishing hawking. Although some proponents of hawkers argue that hawkers augment the income of their families, they probably deliberately overlook the immense abuse of the child's right and his exposure to personal risk. The argument stands against reason on its own merit because it is doubtful that a child hawker would make a significant impact on the income of a family; where two parents working full-time have failed to do so. If we reject this type of reasoning, then, we will discourage hawking and support efforts to abolish it because it promotes child abuse.

Furthermore, hawking is a major cause of road accidents in Port Harcourt city. Many of the hawkers ignore safety rules in their eagerness to sell their items. For instance, I witnessed a ghastly road accident on Aba-Port Harcourt Expressway last August. Other motorists and I were patiently waiting for the green traffic light to pass us on at the Air Force Junction when someone called out for Gala sausage. Three young hawkers – a girl and two boys – sprinted towards the call, each obviously determined to outrun the others. Their young minds cared little about safety as they dashed across the road. Then, it happened. The green light had passed the lane across from the left side of the road few seconds before the call for Gala and impatient motorists sped off again. The first car, a Toyota Land cruiser narrowly missed the trio and we all gasped. But a Mack lorry following the Toyota did not miss them. It crushed the three young hawkers against the concrete pavement in a ghastly mass of bones, brains, blood, and flesh. But if they were not hawking, they would still be alive.

In conclusion, to promote the perceived gains from hawking illustrates the cliché of someone or a society that is 'penny wise' but 'pound foolish'. The marginal profit from hawking comes at an enormous cost in personal and environmental hazards. The government of Rivers State should make our environment safer by abolishing hawking throughout the state.

## **HOMEWORK**

You are taking part in a debate organised by your school on the, 'Private Schools are better than Public School'. Write in not less than 250 words in support or against the topic.