

Excellent Persuasive Essay - Sharks

Model Paper:

Sharks are at the top of the food chain; they are masters of the sea. They are the oldest species on earth, dating back to before the dinosaurs. Sharks have survived through five major extinctions where all other animals have perished. They are the perfect predator. Until now. Now they are the prey. Humans kill millions of sharks per year. They are going to be extinct and we are the cause. Soon they will all be gone and no-one is talking about it. Because apparently, they are monsters. Apparently, they are ferocious animals who kill. But they aren't. They are intelligent beings who just want to live.

A shadow that blocks out the sun, giant grey hulking mass with ill intent, three rows of razor-sharp teeth, blank vacant eyes with a cold gaze. Sharks are real-life monsters. They roam the dark ocean, devouring fish. Anyone who dares to swim may just find themselves face-to-face with a bloodthirsty beast. They kill, they bite and they eat. Sharks are described as just that: a brainless monster that only wants to kill. As children, we were told not to swim too far lest we meet one. Let me tell you why this “monstrous” description is all wrong.

Sharks are animals. As much so as dogs, cats and hamsters. Sharks have a brain; they have thoughts and feelings too. Scientists have proven that sharks have long-term memories and make friends with other sharks. So why do we see a turtle and say “Aw, how cute. Save the turtles!”, but when a shark is sighted, we scramble to get off the

beach? If your answer is “Because they bite people!” then you are completely right. Sharks do bite people. But not to eat them or kill them. Sharks only bite humans out of curiosity. They don’t know what we are. A research study done in 2020 shows that if large amounts of mammal blood is pumped into a shark infested area the sharks will completely ignore it and go towards a drop of fish blood instead.

Movies like ‘Jaws’ depict sharks as human-killing machines but they really have no interest in humans at all. The image of a massive shark killing a whole beach of humans becomes ingrained into your brain after watching shows and movies where a shark is the antagonist. But did you know that there have been zero recorded deaths caused by a hammerhead shark? Or that most sharks can’t even eat something as big as a human anyway? We have been taught that if we are face-to-face with a shark, we should punch it in the nose to have a chance of survival. But this is normally how most shark related deaths happen. Just imagine a shark walking into your house and punching you in the face! Would you fight back? That’s how it would look from a shark’s perspective. We swim into the ocean and into a shark’s home and expect the sharks not to defend themselves and their territory. The ocean is their home and we are only guests. So, it’s time to act like it!

Right now, there is a crisis. Sharks are disappearing at a rapid rate and no-one knows about it. The media is silent. Sharks are going extinct faster than pandas, penguins or even polar bears. These animals have survived for 450 million years. They have been hunted by dinosaurs, by other sharks and now humans. We chase them down; we hack off their

fins and toss their dying bodies overboard to perish in excruciating pain. Their fins get exported to Asia where they put them in soup. The oldest species on earth are being murdered for shark fin soup, which is just chicken broth with a slab of what remains of a shark carcass. A bowl of shark fin soup can cost up to £75 for a single bowl. The soup is a sign of prestige and wealth. Every dead shark can give (at most) five bowls of soup (£400). Illegal shark hunters waste 95% of the actual shark, taking only the fins, as everything else is not very profitable. They get millions per year for this. Our lack of knowledge/desire to do something is killing 100 million sharks every year. For a few measly bowls of soup.

Now, you may be thinking “This still isn’t my problem!” It is. Not only is another species of animal being decimated by our uncaring hands but the extinction of sharks will be a major contribution to slaughtering our already dying planet. In the ocean there is microscopic algae that soaks up 2.6 billion metric tons of our carbon emissions daily. As you may know, carbon is one of the gases that is spearheading global warming and causing our world to die. We produce so much greenhouse gases that the whole world has to rely on this algae to live. Fish eat this alga. Sharks eat fish. Now since there are less sharks, the fish population is skyrocketing. This alga is now being eaten faster. Soon we won’t be able to rely on them anymore. Sharks are the main thing keeping us alive and we are killing them. It’s almost as if we want to self-destruct.

Sharks were at the top of the food chain; were masters of our sea. They won’t be the oldest species on earth anymore. Sharks won’t

survive through their sixth major extinction. And nothing else will either. Unless, something is done to change this fate. Unless we rise up and help these poor creatures. Unless, we defend sharks and the planet that is not ours to destroy. Sharks don't deserve to be labelled as monsters: they deserve to thrive. We can help them. But we have to act now!



Thoughts on this essay...



1. Are you persuaded by the writer that sharks should be saved?
Why or why not? Explain fully.

2. Persuasive writing techniques have been used in this essay. Your job is to go through the essay and highlight OR underline OR circle the techniques the writer has used.
3. Once you have identified the persuasive techniques, think about the EFFECT they create. In other words, do they do their job? Write the persuasive technique in the table overleaf alongside its overall effect on the reader.



Persuasive Technique	Effect it has created on reader