

# Discourse Markers: Water

READING  
TEXT

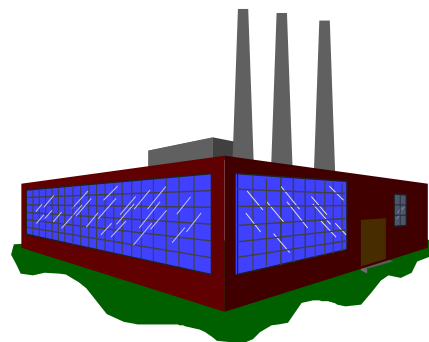
We drink it, cook with it, wash in it, wash with it, swim in it, skate and ski on it, flush toilets with it, fight fires with it, irrigate with it, fish in it, boat on it, and curse it if it falls during picnics. It's one of the only substances that is easily recognizable by its chemical symbol, H<sub>2</sub>O. If you haven't guessed it already— it's water.

In this text you will read a series of short arguments about water. Think about the merits of each opinion as you read, because you will be asked to give your point of view.

## ARGUMENT 1

## THE ECONOMY OR THE ENVIRONMENT?

Imagine that you are the mayor of Lakeville, a small town of 15,000 with an unemployment rate of 15%. A company would like to set up a factory in your town, but the waste water from the factory will make it impossible to swim and fish in the lake your town is situated on. Here are some arguments for or against the construction of the factory.



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**Donald Smokestack, President of Acme Industries:** “We are offering your town 300 new jobs, with good pay. Sure, the factory will produce a bit of waste, but you have to be realistic and think about your pocketbooks. A nice clean lake won't pay the bills, but a good job at Acme will. Let's build the factory.”

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**John Gill, Chairman of the Save the Lake Committee:** “We mustn't let this factory be built. The lake is our town's biggest asset. It's full of fish, has beautiful beaches and is very popular with tourists. Acme wants to ruin all that. Let's block Acme and look for some clean, modern jobs for our citizens.”

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Who is right? As mayor of Lakeville, it is up to you to decide whether or not to allow Acme Industries to build their factory. Explain your decision. Use Discourse Markers where appropriate.

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**ARGUMENT 2**

**TAP WATER OR  
BOTTLED WATER?**

Bottled water is more and more popular. You see little plastic water bottles everywhere: in the office, on the street, in the subway and in schools.



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**Justine Smith loves bottled water:** “Our bodies are made mostly of pure water. We need top-quality water to maintain our good health and appearance. Cities treat tap water with all kinds of horrible chemicals. Bottled water is clear and natural, it’s what our bodies need.”

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**Tom Jones hates bottled water:** “All this bottled water is just a fashion item. There’s nothing wrong at all with good old tap water. The city knows what it’s doing. They wouldn’t provide us with bad water. Paying extra for water that came out of the ground in France or some such place is a complete waste of money. Drink from the tap!”

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So, which water is really better? Should we pay more for bottled water or just drink from the tap? Why? Explain your point of view. Use Discourse Markers where appropriate.

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**ARGUMENT 3**

**BATHS OR SHOWERS?**

To bathe or not to bathe? Is it better to luxuriate in a hot bath or to stand up to the vigours of a shower? Let's hear the arguments.

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**Ernest Tubman takes a bath every day:** “The bath is a symbol of civilization. Taking a bath is a calming experience that encourages quiet contemplation. Baths soothe aching muscles and comfort the soul. In our stressful world a hot bath is a wonderful form of psychic therapy. Showers are barbaric, nasty, and—worst of all—fast. The shower represents everything that is wrong with modern life.”

**Francesca Matthews showers daily:** “I haven't taken a bath in twenty years. The point of a bath is to wash, but you sit in dirty water! That is no way to get clean. Shower water falls over you, and the dirt and sweat are washed down the drain where they belong. Don't bathe - showers are the way to go!”

