Abi-Training: Analysing a non-fictional text

Englisch · Klasse 12 · mittel · Lösungen

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Name: _____ Datum: _____

Excerpt from an opinion column (invented, for practice): „Let's be honest: nobody reads the terms and conditions. We scroll, we tick, we surrender. Forty pages of legal prose stand between us and a game, a photo filter, a bus ticket — and we click „I agree" faster than we would sign for a parcel. The companies know this. They count on it. Every „we value your privacy" banner is a small masterpiece of theatre: the show of choice without the substance of it. I do not blame the users. Blaming a swimmer for the current is a fine way to keep the river as it is. I blame a system that has turned consent into a reflex. Until a click costs the company more than it costs us, nothing will change."

1 Line of argument: Trace the author's reasoning in four steps.

Don't summarise the content — show how one point leads to the next.

a) 1 Observation: *Nobody reads terms and conditions; users agree automatically.*

b) 2 Explanation (who is responsible and how):
Companies know and rely on this; their privacy banners only pretend to offer a choice.

c) 3 Rejection of an alternative view:
The author refuses to blame users: like a swimmer in a current, they cannot resist a system built against them.

d) 4 Conclusion / demand:
The system, not the user, must change — through a cost for companies.

2 Rhetorical and stylistic devices: Name the device, quote it and explain its effect.

Climax / tricolon, metaphor, analogy, direct address / inclusive we. Effect: what does it make the reader feel or accept?

a) „We scroll, we tick, we surrender."
Tricolon with climax: three short parallel clauses that end in the strongest word; it makes agreement sound like defeat and speeds up the rhythm like the act of clicking itself.

b) „a small masterpiece of theatre"
Metaphor / irony: praise („masterpiece") for something deceptive; the theatre image exposes the banners as performance without real choice.

c) „Blaming a swimmer for the current …"
Analogy: the swimmer cannot change the current; it shifts responsibility from the individual to the structure and makes the author's position seem like common sense.

d) „Let's be honest"
Direct, colloquial address with inclusive „we/us": the reader is on the author's side from the first word and shares the confession.

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3 Tone and intention: Describe the tone in two adjectives and explain how it serves the author's intention.

Tone: ironic, sarcastic, urgent, colloquial, confrontational _____ Intention: to criticise, to provoke, to mobilise.

a) Tone: *e.g. ironic and confrontational (or: colloquial, urgent)*

b) Intention:
to criticise companies and the legal framework and to make readers demand change instead of feeling guilty

c) How they fit:
The irony ridicules the companies' rituals; the inclusive we prevents the reader from feeling attacked, so the anger is directed outwards, at the system.

4 Write an analysis (180 to 220 words) of the excerpt.

Abitur operator „analyse": describe and explain the connection between what is said and how it is said. Present tense.

a) Introduction (text type, topic, thesis), line of argument, three devices with effect, tone, conclusion on how convincing the argument is.
Own text. Check: text type (opinion column) and thesis in the introduction, argument in steps, three devices with quote and effect, tone linked to intention, evaluation, present tense, 180 to 220 words.