



## Front Groups

Reading to Writing Summary

EXAMPLE

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# Student

## Two types of lesson

### Lesson#1: [Easier] \*\*\*\*\* [B2/C1]

1. Predict the content of the text. Write down key terms & ideas.
2. Read the text & check words & meanings with a dictionary.
3. Identify the key points and supporting details and complete the **outline**.
4. Write a one-paragraph summary of 200-250 words.
5. Check key points with the **completed outline** & **model answer** (try to achieve 4 key points with supporting points).
6. Answer the critical thinking questions & check possible answers.

### Lesson #2: [Challenging] \*\*\*\*\* [C1]

1. Read the text – no dictionary.
2. Identify the key points and supporting details and complete the **outline**.
3. Write a one-paragraph summary of 200-250 words.
4. Check key points with the **completed outline** & **model answer** (try to achieve 4 key points with supporting points).
5. Answer the critical thinking questions & check possible answers.

# Teacher

## Two types of lesson

### Lesson#1: [Easier] \*\*\*\*\* [B2/C1]

1. Distribute the text a week /day before the test. Students read, check vocabulary & meanings.
2. Test day: distribute a **new copy of text** and the **summary question**.
3. Set 1 hour to read the text, take notes and write a one-paragraph summary of 200-250 words.
4. Feedback<sup>1</sup>: take in and mark [[use our correction code\\*](#)].
5. Feedback<sup>2</sup>: distribute **completed outline** & **model answer**. Students compare with their own work.
6. Summary marking: **should contain at least 4 main ideas with support** – see **summary key points**.
7. Extra: critical thinking questions / group discussion (30 minutes).

### Lesson #2: [Challenging] \*\*\*\*\* [C1]

1. Set 1 hour to read the **text** and write a one-paragraph summary of 200-250 words.
3. Feedback<sup>1</sup>: take in and mark [[use our correction code\\*](#)].
4. Feedback<sup>2</sup>: distribute **completed outline** & **model answer**. Students compare with their own work.
5. Summary marking: **should contain at least 4 main ideas with support** – see **summary key points**.
6. Extra: critical thinking questions / group discussion (30 minutes).

Correction code\*: [www.academic-englishuk/error-correction](http://www.academic-englishuk/error-correction)

## Front Groups

By H. Kennedy (2023) EXAMPLE

A front group is a type of independent organisation but is set up and funded by other corporations [redacted]. According to STOP (2020), front groups are perhaps the clearest example of the third-party technique whereby the front group will publicly champion another company in order to persuade [redacted], also known as lobbying. This in contrast to 'astroturf' groups, however, who specifically draft in new [redacted] 'grassroots' support for a particular issue or policy. In reality, the idea has usually been conceived [redacted] [redacted] are sockpuppets, that is to say, false online identities deliberately created by an individual or group to [redacted] (Beder, 2017).

There are several characteristics which can determine whether an organisation is acting as front group. Some of the key, tell-tale signs could be simply [redacted] is funded. SourceWatch (2020) argues that a front group will typically use a name that suggests [redacted] surveys, reports and polls conducted by their own 'esteemed and credible' experts, and which solely [redacted] corroborates with. There also seems to be an incredible amount of effort on the part of these experts [redacted] of tours, conferences and other promotional events, which would require a huge amount of additional [redacted]. As stated by SourceWatch (2020), although front groups rely on memberships to adhere to its [redacted] is required more than their money, as front groups are generally funded by outside sponsors, who incidentally, [redacted] far-reaching channels of communication.

Some well-known examples of front groups in the food, tobacco and climate industry include the [redacted] in 1985, has *Kraft Foods* and *The Hershey Company* as board members, and is an advocate of genetic modification, [redacted] in livestock; the 1996 *Center for Consumer Freedom*, which is against organic food and reduction policies [redacted] *Coca-Cola* on its board; and more recently in 2011, *Protect the Harvest*, of which *Lucas Oil* and the *Lucas Cattle Company* are members, and endorses industrial farming (Friends Of The Earth, 2017). With [redacted] *Reynolds Tobacco Company* funds two major front groups, *Business Tobacco Alliance* and *The Non-Smoker Protection Committee*, [redacted] taxation and overturn smoking bans, as well as preventing the adoption of any new smoking laws, whereas one of the largest [redacted] *Citizens' Alliance for Responsible Energy*, who object to the promotion of solar or wind as an alternative and [redacted] several major oil and gas producers (SourceWatch, 2020). As these major industries are increasingly [redacted] possible adverse impacts their ideals and operations may have, which could have serious implications for [redacted] interest group has been created, known as the Social Aspects Public Relations Organization (SAPRO), [redacted] these potentially damaging consequences (Pietracatella and Brady, 2020). This is perhaps most felt in [redacted] Pietracatella and Brady (2020), industry-funded SAPROs such as *DrinkWise* use pro-consumption lobbying and self-[redacted] by harmful consumption of alcohol, and yet when disclosing their findings, they themselves do not [redacted] patterns instead.

What remains most apparent is that these organisations, which appear to be independent and [redacted] in fact [redacted] damaging to public health. Perhaps what is needed most of all at present is more awareness and education of these types of groups, [redacted] to lack strict policies, so that those wishing to invest financially or become recruited voluntarily are more informed [redacted] funding and members, front groups would not exist.

### Reference list

Beder, S., (2017). *Front Groups and Astroturf* [online]. Available at:

<http://www.herinst.org/BusinessManagedDemocracy/environment/fronts/index.html> [Viewed 17.02.2023].

Friends of the Earth, (2017). [redacted] [pdf]. Available at:

[https://foe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/webiva\\_fs\\_2/FOE\\_Top11FrontGroups\\_1.pdf](https://foe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/webiva_fs_2/FOE_Top11FrontGroups_1.pdf) [Viewed 15.02.2023].

[redacted] (2020). *A New Development in Front Group Strategy: The Social Aspects Public Relations Organization (SAPRO)* [online]. Available at: [redacted] [Viewed 17.02.2023].

SourceWatch, (2020). *Front groups* [online]. Available at:

[https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Front\\_groups](https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Front_groups) [Viewed 16.02.2023].

STOP, (2020). *STOP Identifies 18 [redacted] Public Health* [online].

Available at: <https://exposetobacco.org/news/stop-exposes-18-more-industry-allies/> [Viewed 17.02.2023].

## **Summary: Key Points**

Take notes on the key points of the text.

1. Main idea:
Support:
2. Main idea:
Support:
3. Main idea:
Support:
4. Main idea:
Support:

**Summary: Key Points (ANSWERS)**

Take notes on the key points of the text.

<p>1. Main idea: Definition [redacted]</p> <p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front group = Type of ind. org. set up &amp; funded by other corp. w purpose of infl. pub. int.</li> <li>• “ “ publicly [redacted] 2 persuade ppl [redacted] (STOP, 2020).</li> <li>• Astroturf groups = Draft new supporters 2 give impress. of grassroots support for pol./campaign.</li> <li>• Ideas = [redacted] are sockpuppets (fake ids [redacted] of support) (Beder, 2017).</li> </ul>
<p>2. Main idea: How to detect a front group.</p> <p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attributes of front groups: Names that [redacted] reg. pub. [redacted]. by own experts that ben. ind./grp it corroborates w (SourceWatch, 2020).</li> <li>• [redacted] &amp; other promo. events. [redacted] spent is not revealed.</li> <li>• Front groups rely [redacted] (SourceWatch, 2020).</li> </ul>
<p>3. Main idea: Well-known examples of front groups.</p> <p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Food Information Council = [redacted] food &amp; use of [redacted].</li> <li>• Center for Consumer Freedom = A/st org. food &amp; red. pol.</li> <li>• Protect the Harvest = [redacted] (Friends of The Earth, 2017).</li> <li>• Business Tobacco Alliance &amp; The Non-Smoker Protection Committee = Enlists bus. owners 2 help fight tobacco tax, [redacted]. of new smoking laws.</li> <li>• The Citizens' Alliance for Responsible Energy = Objects 2 solar [redacted] (SourceWatch, 2020).</li> <li>• [redacted] (SAPRO) = Helps orgs. alleviate damaging effects (Pietracatella and Brady, 2020).</li> <li>• DrinkWise [redacted] &amp; self-reg. 2 prot. [redacted] by alcohol.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Main idea: How to protect people from front groups.</p> <p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front groups = [redacted] health.</li> <li>• Need &gt; aware. &amp; edu. of these groups, partic. in low- &amp; [redacted] lack strict pols., so [redacted] or become recruited voluntarily r &gt; [redacted].</li> </ul>

## Summary

**Task:** Write a 200-250 word summary on the key features of the text.

Word Count: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sample Summary: Front Groups

Structured as a private enterprise but established and financed by another organisation, a front group is a classic [redacted] it advocates for the 'parent' company in order to influence people to support its campaigns (STOP, 2020). [redacted] they are serving the 'parent' company, which uses the front group to advance its profits. Found in many risk [redacted] to detect. They tend to use neutral names, but publish biased research; they invest in promotional events, but [redacted] approach, but hide the fact that their capital mainly comes from outside sponsors (SourceWatch, 2020). As it [redacted] a group known as the Social Aspects Public Relations Organization (SAPRO) has been set up [redacted] (Pietracatella and Brady, 2020). [redacted], one industry-funded SAPRO uses pro-consumption [redacted] its large profits (ibid). What is clear is that these front organisations are [redacted] t of risk industries, so more [redacted] is required in order for people to have a better understanding before they become [redacted].

Word count 246



### **Critical Thinking Questions**

i) What's the stance of the author? What is the evidence for this?

[2 points]

ii) Is this a credible article? Yes /no – why?

[2 points]

iii) Highlight four ideas in the text you would use for an essay titled: 'Outline your understanding of front groups'.

[4 points]

iv) Highlight two areas in the text that you question, disagree with or lack evidence.

[2 points]

## Critical Thinking Questions

i) What's the stance of the author? What is the evidence for this?

*The writer believes that front groups have a negative impact on public health and more awareness on how these groups operate is required. The writer's stance is clear in the conclusion (paragraph 4).*

*Examples:*

- What remains **most apparent** is that these organisations, which **appear** to be **independent** and **supportive** of established policies in **risk industries**, are in fact **rather misleading and potentially damaging to public health**.
- Perhaps **what is needed** most of all at present is .....

**ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...**