Grumpy old men – Writing

What do you moan about? What little things annoy you, get under your skin, or are just plain stupid?

Phone connections, the volume of tv advertisements, people yakking on their phones in public, noisy lolly wrappers in movies, unreliable bus timetables… Who thought of ‘one size fits all’? Why are all your internal assessments due on the same day? Who thought white shirts would be a good colour for school uniforms? Why are school buses all…

A satisfying rant about an irritation in life should make the reader nod along with you. To do this you need to use persuasive language features:

First person narrative style

Rhetorical questions

Lists

Generalisation

To also meet the column style, you need to show your personality. To do this you can

Mock yourself gently

Use colloquial language

Directly address the reader

Create humour through exaggeration and/or comparison

And to be engaging you need thoughtful sentence construction and effective vocabulary choices.

The kinds of sentences that could get you started are:

Why are there…

Have you ever noticed…

If I have to … one more time, I will not be responsible for my actions.

Where did these loons come from?

Whoever thought it would be a good idea to … was just wrong.