

HOW TO WRITE A DISCURSIVE ESSAY

PLANNING

- Planning is key to a successful essay
- Always make a list of for and against arguments first.
- Make sure that you have sufficient arguments for both sides of the point
- Use evidence to support your point.

STRUCTURE

You can structure your essay in two ways:

1. Introduction

2. One or two paragraphs arguing all your FOR points

3. One or two paragraphs arguing all your AGAINST points

4. Conclusion

1. Introduction

2. One or two paragraphs arguing your main FOR or AGAINST points and putting forward the counter arguments

3. One or two paragraphs arguing your secondary FOR or AGAINST points and putting forward your counter arguments

4. Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

- **State what you are writing about:**
- In this essay I will be discussing the issue of..... (refer to the essay title)
- **Give a reason why you are writing about this:**
- This subject is very topical and affects many people
- **State what you are going to do:**
- I will examine arguments for and against this topic and draw a conclusion based on the facts presented.

HOW TO PUT FORWARD YOUR FOR ARGUMENTS

- People in favour of + topic
- Supporters of + topic
- Advocates of + topic
- Campaigners of + topic
- Proponents of + topic
- Those who support + topic
- Pressure groups in favour of +
- Believers in + topic
- Followers of + topic
- Users of + topic

argue that
believe that
maintain that
claim that
feel that
suggest that
agree that

HOW TO ADD FURTHER INFORMATION TO SUPPORT YOUR ARGUMENT

- **AND** is used when you want to join two similar ideas, some alternatives are:

therefore

moreover

also

apart from that

as a result

accordingly

on top of that

consequently

in addition

thus

furthermore

hence

what is more

REFORMULATING YOUR IDEAS

- **OR is used when you want to put two different ideas together or reformulate what you have stated earlier, some alternatives are:**

in other words

to put it more simply

it would be better to say

alternatively

to put it straightforwardly

PUTTING FORWARD A CONTRASTING ARGUMENT

- **BUT** appears when you need to contrast one statement with another:

However,
nevertheless,
nonetheless,
yet,
in spite of that,

in contrast
on the other hand,
despite the fact that
all the same,

HOW TO PUT FORWARD YOUR AGAINST ARGUMENTS

- People against + topic
 - Critics of + topic
 - Opponents of + topic
 - Challengers of + topic
 - Campaigners against + topic
 - Those opposed to + topic
 - Pressure groups against + topic
- argue that
believe that
maintain that
claim that
feel that
suggest that
agree that

HOW TO INTRODUCE EVIDENCE AND EXAMPLES

- This clearly demonstrates that...
- This illustrates how.....
- There is some/clear evidence that...
- There is mounting evidence that...
- A recent study found that...
- Research tells us that.....

HOW TO EXPLAIN CONSEQUENCES

.....happened

- because of due to
- as a result of as a consequence of
- on account of in response to
- owing to following on from

YOUR CONCLUSION

- Sum up your main points
- State your point of view
- Give your reason for this.
- Offer a solution if you have one

EXPRESSING YOUR OPINION IN THE CONCLUSION

- I agree/ disagree with the above statement (that...)
- In my opinion...
- I believe that...
- I am in favour of...
- I am against the idea of...
- It seems to me that...
- I sympathise with...

CONCLUSION WORD BANK

- To sum up/ altogether
- On this basis, I can conclude that...
- Given this, it can be concluded that...
- Having proved this, I would like to...
- In conclusion, I would like to stress that...
- All in all, I believe that...
- Ultimately,...
- Finally I would conclude that...
- As outlined previously/earlier
- As previously stated
- We could conclude that..