

How to write a discussion essay

In a discussion essay we write about points for and against a subject.

It can be about the advantages and disadvantages of something, or why we should or shouldn't do something.

Remember!

- Write about both sides of the argument.

1 Structure:

- In the introductory paragraph start with a statement about the subject.
- In the next paragraph give points for or advantages.
- In the next paragraph give points against or disadvantages.
- In the last paragraph give your own opinion.

2 Context

- Prepare by writing down a short list of points for and against. Choose the easiest points to write about.
- Give examples where you can.
- Use linking expressions for introducing points and contrasting.

Useful language

Starting: Many people think / say that ...

Commenting on the question: This is a very difficult question. We must consider many things.

Introducing points: Firstly, ... / Secondly, ... / Finally, ... / One advantage is ...

Contrasting: However ... / But ... / On the other hand ...

Adding: Another point is ... / Also ...

Reason and result: Because ... / This is because ... / So ... / Therefore ...

Model question

Should children under ten use mobile phones?

Model answer

Most people have mobile phones and use them every day. **However**, many people think that children, in particular, use mobile phones too much. **We must consider several points.**

On the one hand, it is good for children to have mobile phones **because their parents can contact them**. If the children have a problem they can phone someone for help.

On the other hand, many doctors believe that mobile phones are bad for our health. This is worse if we start to use phones when we are very young. **Another point is** that children use phones for texting their friends and some teachers say that writing skills, like spelling, are getting worse.

In my opinion, mobile phones are useful for children to have but they must learn not to use them too often.

**contrast
comment**

**contrast
reason**

adding

opinion