

Question types:

- 1. Choose one opinion**
- 2. Give your opinion**

Academic discussion template:

1)

Here the professor raised questions about the impact of social media. I appreciate the arguments mentioned by Kelly and Paul and I have other ideas that can add to the discussion: In my opinion, social media has a good impact. I have two reasons to support my standpoints. First of all, (Give reasons here). Secondly, Some people may have other logical explanations which I respect but I believe my reasoning is very clear which supports that social media has a good impact on us.

2)

Here the professor raised questions about how a country can attract its population to live in rural areas. I appreciate the points mentioned by Claire and Kelly on the point and I have some more ideas in my mind that can add up to the discussion about attracting people in rural areas. First of all,... Another approach..

Academic discussion examples:

Q1(official toefl)

Section 1 of 1

00:06:43 Hide Timer

Your professor is teaching a class on sociology. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Achebe

Let's think about population trends in urban and rural areas (villages). Living in urban areas can be expensive; nonetheless, when they have a choice of where to live, people in some countries do not wish to live in rural areas even if the cost of living there is lower. If governments of some countries want to attract more people to live in rural areas or villages, what is the best strategy or approach that governments can use? Why?



Claire

I would live in a rural area if the government gave more financial help to farmers. Although it may cost very little to live in a rural area, it costs a lot to begin a career in agriculture. If I had financial help, I would start my own farm and be happy to live in a rural area.



Kelly

In my country, urban centers are great places to live because you can access shops, restaurants, and museums. If the government of my country wanted to attract me to live in a rural area, the area would first have to attract more businesses focused on entertainment and culture than most rural areas have now.

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SDD

Here the professor asked questions about how a country can attract its population to live in rural areas. I appreciate the points mentioned by Claire and Kelly on the point and I have some more ideas in my mind that can be added to the discussion about attracting people in rural areas. First of all, an opportunity for the home office can really attract people to stay in rural areas. (explain / example) Because people like to stay close to their relatives. If a person of a rural area gets an to work from home he will most likely to choose staying close to relatives rather than moving to countryside. Another approach to motivating people in rural areas is a good communication system. If communication is easy and fast rural people can easily move to the closest urban area and get needed services. The last approach in my mind is to give proper health care in rural areas. Most people don't want to stay in rural areas because poor health care system. I believe these three strategies will really help to achieve the goal of attracting more people in rural areas.

Word: 126

Score: 4

Q2(official toefl)

Section 1 of 1

00:09:54 Hide Timer

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Gupta

This week, I want you to discuss assessment criteria. Some schoolteachers give high grades (marks) only to those students who perform well on their homework assignments and tests. Other teachers, however, may give high grades to students who have worked very hard on their assignments but have not performed so well. Which approach do you think is better: Giving grades based only on performance, or grading students not just on performance but also on their



Kelly

I think grades should be based on performance only. It's a matter of fairness. I'd be really upset if another student got nearly the same grade that I did when I turned in work that was almost perfect and the other student's work had incorrect answers or unclear ideas. It wouldn't matter to me if they worked harder.



Paul

Sure, evaluation should mainly be based upon the student's performance, but hard work should count for something. A student who works hard, even when the final grade isn't the highest in the class, builds character, which will benefit the student later in life when they go to university or apply for a job.

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Here the professor asked questions about which approach of grading is better. I appreciate the arguments mentioned by Kelly and Paul and I have other ideas that can add to the discussion: In my opinion, grades should be given only based on performance. I have two reasons to support my opinion. First of all, employers use grades to judge a candidate. They want to select candidates who can perform well not those who can work harder and perform less. So, giving grades based on hard work will mislead employers. Secondly, how can hard work be measured? A student may look like working hard but it may be just a showoff. So, grading based on "hard work" is not a good idea.

Word: 108

Score: 4

Q3(official toefl)

Section 1 of 1

00:08:57  Hide Timer

Your professor is teaching a class on environmental science. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Diaz

Nowadays, the world is facing a number of pressing environmental problems, and over the next few weeks, we'll be discussing various innovations that may help solve these problems. To begin our discussion, I'd like you to think of one global environmental problem—for example, it could be related to water, air, land, climate, biodiversity, energy, or something similar. Then explain what you think would be an effective solution to this problem.



Kelly

One of the major environmental problems is the limited freshwater supply in many areas of the world, which means that we need to find effective technologies to provide people with enough drinking water. One solution is to improve the technology for removing salt from seawater, which could allow us to use seawater to replenish dwindling freshwater supplies.



Paul

I think the biggest problem is the air pollution caused by the overuse of motorized vehicles. The obvious solution is for local governments to promote alternatives, like building bike lanes in cities or improving public transportation with electric buses. Both of these would be easy to implement as well.

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Here the professor asked to think about an environmental problem and its solution. I appreciate the points mentioned by Kelly and Paul and I have other ideas that can add up to the discussion about environmental problems and solutions. I think one of the major environmental problems is the rising temperature. The way it is increasing during the last few years is really threatening which is causing desertification, and the rise of sea levels. There is no single solution to this problem. To encounter this problem we should stop deforestation, plant more trees, and reduce the use of gas like CFC. Increasing the number of trees through tree plantation will be the most effective measure in my opinion.

Word-109

Score: 4

Q4(official toefl)

Section 1 of 1

00:09:51  Hide Timer

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Andrew

The gap year would be a good opportunity for students to reflect on their education goals and confirm their plans for university. At least it would give someone time to investigate different fields and get a better sense of what it means to be in business, to work in an office, or to work with their hands, etc.



Claire

Because university can be expensive, students should not take a gap year. Tuition, the cost of books, and living expenses rise every year. The money a student might save during a gap year might not be enough to cover the rise in prices when they enter university a year later.



Doctor Achebe

This week, we'll look at how well students transition to university. Many recent high school graduates have taken a gap year—a yearlong break after graduation—before studying at a university. During a gap year, students may get jobs, travel, or simply relax and think about their future. Some students say their gap year was beneficial, while others regret having taken one. In your opinion, does taking a gap year create more advantages or disadvantages for students? Why?

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I appreciate the points mentioned by Andrew and Claire and I have other ideas that can add to the discussion: In my opinion, students should not take a gap between high school and university. I have two reasons to support my opinion. First of all, while studying in high school a student gets habituated with daily study. If he takes a break before starting university, he will lose the habit of studying and it will be hard to start again. Secondly, lots of concepts learned in high school are needed for university. Taking a break will lead a student to forget them and after the break, he again needs to recap that knowledge. So, the break will cost extra time.

Word: 118

Score: 4 out of 5

Q5(official toefl)

Section 1 of 1

00:09:48 Hide Timer

Your professor is teaching a class on environmental science. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Achebe

In our textbook, we read that parks and other green spaces with trees and plants have numerous benefits for people in cities. But city governments sometimes must choose between using a piece of available land as a green space or using it for other important purposes, such as for shopping areas or for manufacturing plants. In your opinion, which is the better use for available urban space? Why?



Kelly

It's true that parks can benefit people in cities, especially health-wise. But it's more important to use the limited space for things that people cannot survive without, like hospitals or clinics. Medical care is often an urgent necessity. Visiting a park is not.



Claire

I'm all for creating green spaces for people to enjoy, but you don't necessarily need an open piece of land to do that. Let the available land be used for business or housing purposes. Green spaces can be created on the rooftops of existing buildings. And new buildings can be constructed creatively to include open spaces with plants and trees.

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I appreciate the points mentioned by Kelly and Claire and I have other ideas that can add to the discussion: In my opinion, available land in a city should be used as a green space. I have two reasons for supporting my opinion. First of all, without any green space city will become nothing but a desert. To keep the environment liveable for future generations we must keep the remaining green space as it is and should think about how to increase it. Secondly, there is no need to destroy green space to increase shopping areas, manufacturing plants, etc., because if we need extra space: we can build high buildings by replacing the small ones.

Word: 114

Score: 4

Q6(official toefl)

Section 1 of 1

00:09:36 Hide Timer

Your professor is teaching a class on business administration. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Diaz

We've been discussing the importance of hiring and retaining highly skilled employees, but even the best employees may need to periodically update or further develop their work skills. One question facing managers is how much time and money to invest in improving the work skills of their employees. Some managers argue that ongoing employee training is the most important investment a company can make. What are your thoughts on the matter?



Andrew

I don't think that employee training is the most important investment a company can make. The company should be hiring the most skilled workers it can find in the first place. There are so many other unavoidable things that a company needs to spend money on that have to take precedence over training.



Kelly

Employees' leaving their jobs is always a risk, but providing ongoing training and skill development is more likely to make employees want to stay rather than go, in my opinion. When employers pay for training, employees are likely to feel more valued by their employer, and this can only improve the employer-employee relationship.

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I appreciate the points mentioned by Andrew and Kelly and I have other ideas that can add to the discussion: In my opinion, employee training is not the most important investment for a company. I have two reasons for supporting my opinion. First of all, It is not guaranteed that after receiving proper training an employee is going to stay in the company. If he leaves then the total investment will fall into the water. Secondly, if an employee is paid more rather than providing training he himself will be motivated to learn as he is well paid. So no extra investment for training is needed, and he will not probably leave as he is well-paid.

Q7(official toefl)

Section 1 of 1

00:09:41  Hide Timer

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Achebe

Companies now make computer games designed to help very young children learn. The games are advertised for use by children aged 2 to 8 years and often involve basic math and reading skills, presented in a fun, game-like style. Some people say that this results in children spending too much time looking at computer screens. Do you think it's a good idea for very young children to play educational computer games? Why or why not?



Andrew

I think it's completely inappropriate for children as young as 2 years old to play what are essentially video games. Even if the games are educational, the same skills can be taught in traditional ways—by reading books to children, for example. And it would be beneficial to interact with their parents in this way.



Kelly

Considering how important computers are to human societies these days, I think it actually makes sense to allow very young children to explore them. And if the computer games that children play also give them early access to subject matter that will later be taught in school, all the better.

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I appreciate the points mentioned by Andrew and Kelly and I have other ideas that can add to the discussion: In my opinion, allowing young children to play educational games is not a good option. I have two reasons for supporting my opinion. First of all, there is a big possibility that, if we allow a child to play these games he will get addicted to games and start to play other games that are not even educational. Secondly, there are better and cheaper options than educational games. Like, educational videos can be a better choice.

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