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| **COURSEWORK INSTRUCTION FOR ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY (40%)** |

**INSTRUCTION**

You will write an argumentative essay on a topic related to your field of interests. Choose a clear standpoint and develop your arguments. Your essay will include specific information from your readings of any factual texts, discussion in forums, and your academic opinions on the subject matter. You should write between 220-250 words.

**GUIDELINES**

**Paragraph: Introduction**

* provide the background of the topic
* write a clear thesis statement that expresses the standpoint and main arguments

**Paragraph: Body**

Your arguments may be presented in any of the following:

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|  | Organisation |
| Body Paragraph 1 | * Topic sentence 1 (Argument 1 - agree) * supporting details |
| Body Paragraph 2 | * Topic sentence 2 (Argument 2 - agree) * supporting details |
| Body Paragraph 3 | * Topic sentence 3 (Counter argument+ refutation) * supporting details |

**Paragraph: Conclusion**

* summarise all main points

**NOTES:**

1. Do not write an informative essay (*The difference between argumentative and informative essay is that an informative essay contains only information to explain a topic,* ***whereas*** *an argumentative essay contains statistics, facts and writer personal opinions*).
2. Avoid sensitive topics such as on religions, races, politics etc.
3. Avoid using quotations in your essay.
4. Write a minimum of 5 paragraphs.
5. Provide a minimum of 2 sources. Use APA style for in-text citation and references.

**DETAILS FOR SUBMISSION**

1. You will work individually.
2. Use Times New Roman, size 12, and 1.5 spacing.
3. Your writing must be original. Submit your work to Turnitin. Ensure that the similarity index is not more than 15%. Any evidence of plagiarism will get a penalty of 50% marks deduction.
4. The deadline for submission is **WEEK 11 (LECTURE 10)**.
5. Submit your work on time to avoid 50% marks deduction.
6. In your submission, attach all the following in one Pdf file:
7. the argumentative essay + the reference list (APA style)
8. the Turnitin report

**ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY B2 MARKING SCHEME (40%)**

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|  | **CONTENT** | **ORGANISATION** | **LANGUAGE** |
| **5** | * Include all the components with all required information:   - **clear thesis statement**  - **minimum 3 clear topic sentences with clear supporting details**  - conclusion  - in-text citations & references   * All contents are relevant to the task. * All arguments include *statistics/ facts* * Clearly expresses writer’s opinion(s) of the topic * Well synthesised (Ideas are cited from different sources) | * Minimum 5 paragraphs * Structure: All ideas sequenced logically and accurately * Effective use of linking/ cohesive devices | * Display excellent use of Adverb clauses of concession, Adverb phrases of reason, and tenses * Excellent control of spelling and punctuation (only 1 – 2 slips) * Uses a wide variety of structures * Uses a range of highly accurate complex structures / sentence forms * Uses a very wide range of vocabulary to express valid ideas efficiently * Hardly any errors that impede meaning |
| **4** | * Include all the components with all required information:   - **clear thesis statement**  - **minimum 3 clear topic sentences with satisfactory supporting details**  - conclusion  - in-text citations & references references   * Most contents are relevant to the task * Most arguments include *statistics/ facts*   **(only 1 argument lacks evidence)**   * Clearly expresses writer’s opinion(s) of the topic * Well synthesised (Ideas are cited from different sources) | * Minimum 5 paragraphs * Structure: Most ideas sequenced logically and accurately * Suitable use of linking/ cohesive devices | * Display good use (with minimal errors) of Adverb clauses of concession, Adverb phrases of reason and tenses * Good control of spelling and punctuation (3 and more errors) * Uses a good variety of structures * Uses a range of accurate complex structures / sentence forms * Uses a good range of vocabulary to express valid ideas * Very few errors (less than 5); none of them impedes meaning |
| **3** | * **Clear thesis statement WITH some unclear topic sentence(s)** * Some contents are relevant to the task * Unclear writer’s opinion(s) of the topic * Some arguments include *statistics/ facts* **(2 arguments lack evidences)** * Synthesis is present, but from limited sources | * Less than 5 paragraphs * Structure: Some confusions in sequencing of ideas * Some disconnected ideas * Some unsuitable linking/ cohesive devices | * Display appropriate use (with some errors) of Adverb of Concession, Adverb phrases of reason, and tenses * Mistakes in spelling/punctuation occur, may hinder comprehension * Uses some complex structures / sentence forms * Some inappropriate vocabulary and structures * More than 5 errors in word choices and structures, may hamper understanding * Moderate word choice |
| **2** | * **Unclear thesis statement AND Unclear topic sentence(s)** * Very few contents are relevant to the task * Unclear writer’s opinion(s) of the topic * **Most arguments lack evidences** (*statistics/ facts)* * Synthesis is present, but from limited sources | * Less than 5 paragraphs * Structure: Many disconnected ideas * A lot of repetitive ideas * Lack of use of linking/ cohesive devices | * Many errors in the use of Adverb clauses of concession, Adverb phrases of reason and tenses * Major errors in spelling and punctuation, hinder comprehension * Only occasionally uses complex structures / sentence forms * Limited word choices, many misused words, hampers understanding |
| **1** | * Not relevant to the task at all * No synthesis | * Less than 5 paragraphs * Structure: No logical organisation - disconnected ideas * Incorrect/ Lack of use of linking/ cohesive devices * Obvious lifting from other sources | * **No mastery** in the use of Adverb clauses of concession, Adverb phrases of reason and tenses * Very poor spelling/punctuation * Uses hardly any complex structures / sentence forms * Very limited word choice, a lot of misused words and problematic structures, distract readers * Frequent errors in structures, obscure communication |
| **0** | * Task unattempted (under 20 words | No linking/ cohesive devices, no reference words | * Little or no evidence of grammatical knowledge (under 20 words) |

Note: Marks: x/15 \* 40 = 40%

**Notes to INSTRUCTORS:**

1. Deduct **50% from total score** for any evidence of plagiarism.
2. Deduct **50% from total score** for late submission.
3. Deduct **1 mark from raw score** if no references given.
4. Deduct **2 marks from raw score** if no Turnitin report submitted.