

UNIT 2: HOW TO WRITE AN INTRODUCTION IN IELTS WRITING TASK 2**The Introduction**

- ✓ Generally, the introduction in the IELTS Writing Task 2 consists of two sentences:
General statement and Thesis statement
- ✓ Steps to write an introduction
 - Identify key words in the task sentence
 - Write the general statement (paraphrasing) and the thesis statement (giving your own opinion)

Example

Nowadays, families are not as close as in the past and a lot of people have become used to this.

Explain the reasons for this and discuss any possible effects it may have on society.

Step 1: Identify key words (families, not close, past, become used to, reasons, effects)

Step 2: Write

It has been argued that the closeness among family members these days has been greatly compromised in quite a discernible way. There certainly are reasons behind this trend, which carries some major social implications.

Paraphrasing

- ✓ the closeness among family members has been compromised ~ families are not as close as in the past
- ✓ social implications ~ effects on society

Some ways to paraphrase

Example

Governments should financially support businesses which are facing their possibility of going bankrupt.

✓ Use passive voice

➔ Businesses which are facing the possibility of going bankrupt should be financially supported.

✓ Change word form

- support (v) ➔ support (n)
- bankrupt (adj) ➔ bankruptcy (n)

➔ Governments should provide financial support for businesses which are facing the possibility of bankruptcy.

Use the dummy subjects (It, there)

➔ It is necessary for governments to financially support businesses which are facing the possibility of going bankrupt.

Use synonyms

➔ It is of great necessity for governments to provide financial aids for businesses which are coping with the possibility of bankruptcy.

Some tips to crack the general statement

- ✓ Use “In recent years, these days”
- ✓ Use present perfect or present perfect continuous
- ✓ Use some connectors “due to, thanks to, since...”
- ✓ Use “one of the”

How to write an effective thesis statement

The thesis statement should do two things

- ✓ Address the task: It should do what the task asks for - agree or disagree, describe advantages and disadvantages, etc.
- ✓ Present the topic of the essay: It should tell the reader what the essay is about.
- ✓ Don't use rhetorical questions
- ✓ Make it clear what you are going to write
- ✓ Don't write an outline sentence. For example "This essay would like to explore reasons for this in more detail..."
- ✓ Use "In my view, in my opinion, I believe that, I personally ..."

Example

Some parents send their children to preschool when they are three or four years old. Other parents wait until their children are old enough for primary school before they send them to school.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of sending children to preschool at a young age.

Thesis Statement A

While many children start preschool when they are only three or four years old, there are both advantages and disadvantages to this situation.

Thesis Statement B

Sending children to school at an early age has both advantages and disadvantages.

Example

Some people say that the best way to discourage smoking is to make smoking illegal in public places. Other people say that this is not enough and that other measures are needed.

Discuss both these views, and give your opinion.

Thesis Statement A

In my opinion, laws against smoking are an important part of discouraging this bad habit, but I agree that more needs to be done.

Thesis Statement B

In my opinion, it is unpleasant to be in public places where people are smoking.

PRACTICE

Choose the thesis statements that are appropriate for each task. There can be more than one possible answer.

1.

Obesity is an increasing public health problem in some parts of the world.
Explain some possible reasons for this problem and suggest some solutions.

- A. Obesity is a big problem in many places because it can cause serious health problems.
- B. There are several reasons why obesity has become such a widespread issue, but there are also ways we can solve this problem.
- C. Obesity has become a serious public health issue for a variety of reasons, but, fortunately, there are ways we can deal with this problem.

2.

People should never eat meat because raising animals for human consumption is cruel.
To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

- A. There are people who believe that we should not eat meat because it involves cruelty to animals, but I completely disagree with this point of view.
- B. I never eat meat because I believe that it is bad for my health, but I don't mind if other people eat meat.

C. Some people feel that raising animals for meat is cruel, and I am of the same opinion.

3.

Some people say that physical education classes are an important part of a child's education. Others believe that it is more important to focus on academics during school time. Discuss both these views, and give your opinion.

A. While there are people who think that school should only be about academics, others believe that physical education is also important, and I agree with this point of view.

B. In my opinion, a child's education should focus on academics.

C. The best schools are the ones that have a strong physical education program.

4.

In some educational systems, children are required to study one or more foreign languages. In others, foreign language study is not a requirement. What are the potential benefits of foreign language study? Do you think foreign language study is an important part of education?

A. Foreign languages can be difficult to learn well, but my opinion is that children should study them.

B. Foreign language study improves children's minds as well as their understanding of the world, and I believe it should be a requirement in all schools.

C. Studying foreign languages has some benefits for children; however, I don't believe it is an essential part of education.

5.

A growing number of people rely on restaurants and convenience food (frozen food and packaged meals) rather than home-cooked food to supply most of their meals. What are the advantages and disadvantages of eating this way?

- A. Home-cooked food is much cheaper than convenience food, and it is also better for your health.
- B. Convenience food has become very popular, but it has disadvantages as well as advantages.
- C. Many people don't know how to cook or they don't enjoy it, so they prefer to eat their meals in restaurants.

Write your own introduction for the following topics

1.

Developed countries have created many environmental problems in the world, particularly in their contribution to global warming.

What can be done to reduce the dangers of global warming?

2.

In some countries, many more people are choosing to live alone nowadays than in the past.

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?