

WRITING

Writing an argumentative essay

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_1131W

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can explain how to structure an argumentative essay.
- I can write a short argumentative essay on a topic of my own choice.



Structuring an argumentative essay

- It's important to follow **a set structure** when writing an argumentative essay.

Structure of an argumentative essay

Introduction

Main body

Conclusion



Structuring an argumentative essay

Match the stage of the essay with the correct description.

1



Introduction

2

Main body

3

Conclusion

a

2 sentences **giving your opinion** and **summing up the arguments**

b

2 or 3 sentences giving an **overview** of the topic

c

2 or 3 paragraphs **presenting the main arguments**



Writing an introduction

- A **strong** introduction allows your essay to get off to **a good start**.

Structure	Example
A sentence which gives an overview of the topic	Social networks are isolating people and making them feel depressed and anxious. Do you agree?
A sentence to reframe the question	<i>In today's society, it is rare to find someone who does not use social media in some form.</i>
A sentence to give your point of view or what the essay will describe	<i>However, many people say that social networks are bad for us, making us feel lonely and giving us anxiety. This essay will explore that statement.</i>



Writing the main body

- Include **two or three paragraphs** as the **main body**.
- In the examples below, you agree with the ***arguments for***.

2 paragraph essay	3 paragraph essay
Arguments for	Arguments for
Arguments against	Arguments for
	Arguments against



Point – Example - Explain



For each **point**,
include an **example**.

Then, **explain** how the
example **supports**
your point!

This is called the **P-E-E**
technique!



Writing the conclusion

- This is your **last chance** to convince the reader that your opinion is the right one.

Structure	Example
<p>State your opinion clearly.</p> <p>Summarise your main point to support your opinion.</p> <p>If you want, you can give the reader something to think about for the future.</p>	<p><i>To summarise, it is certainly true that overuse of social networks is making people feel alone and depressed due to a lack of human contact. Social networks should be used in moderation and never as a replacement for face-to-face interaction with others.</i></p>

Plan your essay

1. **Choose** a topic for your essay.
2. **Decide** if you are for or against.
3. **Plan** your arguments for and against.



Use the topic ideas below or **select** your own!



Do you think that university should be free?

Do you think zoos should be banned?

Should we raise the minimum wage or not?

Should we all become vegetarian to save the planet?



Write your essay

1. **Aim to** write 100-150 words.
2. When you finish writing, **share** your essay with a partner in breakout rooms.
3. **Improve** each other's work before **showing** it to your teacher.

Structuring an argumentative essay

1. Introduction
2. Main body
3. Conclusion





End of the lesson

Idiom

the pen is mightier than the sword

Meaning: writers have a greater effect on history and society than soldiers and wars.

Example: In times like these, let's remember that **the pen is mightier than the sword**.



Additional practice



Discuss

In your opinion, what makes for a good argumentative essay?



What makes for a bad argumentative essay?





Give some advice

Imagine a friend comes to you for some advice. **Role-play** the discussion with a classmate.



Your friend

Got any tips for writing a good essay? I've got a big English exam coming up that I need to pass!

Funny! I just learnt about that the other day. Well, first of all, you need to...



You

How should they structure the essay?

What goes into each section?

How should they support their points?

Should they include both sides of the argument or only one side?



Read this quotation

Discuss the questions below.

“

I'm not much of a planner. In fact, I hardly ever plan my essays. I just write what comes to mind.

Are you similar to this person or not?

How often did you write essays at school or university?

Did you use to plan them or just go ahead and write them?





Answer key

P. 4: 1. b, 2. c, 3. a



Summary

Structuring an argumentative essay

- Introduction: 2 or 3 sentences giving an **overview** of the topic
- Main body: 2 or 3 paragraphs **presenting the main arguments**
- Conclusion: 2 sentences **giving your opinion** and **summing up the arguments**

Writing the introduction

- Include a sentence which gives an **overview** of the topic
- Then add a sentence to **reframe** the question
- Finish with a sentence to give your point of view or what the essay will **describe**.

Writing the main body

- Include **two or three paragraphs**. Include at least **1 point supporting** and **1 point against**.
- For each **point**, include an **example**. Then, **explain** how the example **supports** your point!

Writing the conclusion

- In your conclusion, you should state your opinion **clearly**.
- Don't forget to **summarise** your main points in support of your opinion.
- If you want, you can give the reader something to **think about for the future**.



Vocabulary

overview

to reframe

point of view

clearly

to summarise



Notes

