**B2 WRITING –ESSAY ORGANIZATION**

A well-organized essay helps your readers follow your ideas easily.

Your essays should be broken into paragraphs, normally including:

- paragraph 1: The Introduction

- paragraph 2: The Body 1

- paragraph 3: The Body 2

- paragraph 4: The Conclusion

**The Introduction**

The purpose of the introduction is to give your readers a clear idea of what your essay will cover. The introduction should include:

- general statement (context)

- thesis statement (your opinion)

1. **Opinion**

**Paragraph 1**

***Some people who have been in prison become good citizens later, and it is often argued that these are the best people to talk to teenagers about the dangers of committing a crime.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

It is true that ex-prisoners can become normal, productive members of society. I completely agree with the idea that allowing such people to speak to teenagers about their experiences is the best way to discourage them from breaking the law.

| **Structure** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- |
| Sentence 1: (What is the purpose of the 1st sentence?)  Sentence 2: (What is the writer’s position on the given viewpoint?) |  |

**Paragraph 2**

***Some people think that all teenagers should be required to do unpaid work in their free time to help the local community. They believe this would benefit both the individual teenager and society as a whole.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

Many young people work on a volunteer basis, and this can only be beneficial for both the individual and society. However, I disagree with the idea that we should therefore force all teenagers to do unpaid work.

| **Structure** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- |
| Sentence 1: (What is the purpose of the 1st sentence?)  Sentence 2: (What is the writer’s position on the given viewpoint?) |  |

**Paragraph 3**

***The older generations tend to have very traditional ideas about how people should live, think and behave. However, some people believe that these ideas are not helpful in preparing younger generations for modern life.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?***

It is true that many older people believe in traditional values that often seem incompatible with the needs of younger people. While I agree that some traditional ideas are outdated, I believe that others are still useful and should not be forgotten.

| **Structure** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- |
| Sentence 1: (What is the purpose of the 1st sentence?)  Sentence 2: (What is the writer’s position on the given viewpoint?) |  |

**Introduction for an opinion essay**

| **Structure** | **Useful expressions** |
| --- | --- |
| **General statement** (1 sentence): Give an introduction about the topic (using paraphrasing techniques) | It is true that + fact  It is argued that + opinion being discussed  Some people believe/argue that + opinion being discussed  It is widely observed that + … |
| **Thesis statement** (1 sentence): State your position (Agree/Disagree/Balanced) | **Agree/Disagree**  I (strongly/completely/absolutely) agree/disagree/ concur   * with this given view (should use this one) * (with the idea) that + … (repeat topic)   **Balanced**  While I agree/disagree that + idea 1 (the part that you agree/disagree with), I believe that + idea 2 (the part that you disagree/agree with) (I partly agree/ disagree…)  -> Idea 1 will become the main idea of your first body paragraph; idea 2 will become the main idea of your second body paragraph. |

1. **Discussion**

***Some people believe that studying at university or college is the best route to a successful career, while others believe that it is better to get a job straight after school.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

When high school ends, teenagers face the dilemma of whether to get a job or continue their education in order to achieve future professional success. While there are some benefits to starting work as soon as school finishes, I would argue that it is better to go to college or university.

| **Structure** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- |
| Sentence 1: (What is the purpose of the 1st sentence?)  Sentence 2: (What is the writer’s opinion?) | ***studying at university or college ->***  ***the best route to a successful career ->***  ***get a job straight after school ->***  ***studying at university or college ->*** |

**Introduction for a discussion essay**

| **Structure** | **Useful expressions** |
| --- | --- |
| **General statement** (1 sentence): Give an introduction about the topic (using paraphrasing techniques) | People have different views about …  People’s opinions differ as to whether or not … |
| **Thesis statement** (1 sentence): Mention both views and state your opinion (which view you agree with) | * While there are some benefits to + weaker argument, I believe that + stronger argument + is more productive/advantageous/ … (positive adjectives) * Although there are good arguments in favor of + weaker argument, I personally believe that + stronger argument + is more productive/advantageous/ … (positive adjectives)   -> Weaker argument will become the main idea of your first body paragraph; stronger argument will become the main idea of your second paragraph. |

1. **Advantages & Disadvantages**

***Some people regard video games as harmless fun, or even as a useful educational tool. Others, however, believe that video games are having an adverse effect on the people who play them. In your opinion, do the drawbacks of video games outweigh the benefits?***

Many people, and children in particular, enjoy playing computer games. While I accept that these games can sometimes have a positive effect on the user, I believe that they are more likely to have a harmful impact.

| **Structure** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- |
| Sentence 1: (What is the purpose of the 1st sentence?)  Sentence 2: (What is the writer’s opinion?) |  |

**Introduction for an Advantages & Disadvantages essay**

| **Structure** | **Useful expressions** |
| --- | --- |
| **General statement** (1 sentence): Give an introduction about the topic | It is true/ widely observed that + fact |
| **Thesis statement** (1 sentence): Mention both advantages and disadvantages and state your opinion (advantages outweigh disadvantages OR disadvantages outweigh advantages) | While there are certain benefits/drawbacks of …, I believe that   * the drawbacks/benefits outweigh these benefits/drawbacks. * … more likely to have a harmful/positive/ negative impact. |

1. **Problems & Solutions**

***In the developed world, average life expectancy is increasing. What problems will this cause for individuals and society? Suggest some measures that could be taken to reduce the impact of aging populations.***

It is true that people in industrialized nations can expect to live longer than ever before. Although there will undoubtedly be some negative consequences of this trend, steps can be taken to mitigate these potential problems.

| **Structure** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- |
| Sentence 1: (What is the purpose of the 1st sentence?)  Sentence 2: (What does the writer do here? Does the writer go into detail?) |  |

**Introduction for a Problems & Solutions essay**

| **Structure** | **Useful expressions** |
| --- | --- |
| **General statement** (1 sentence): Give an introduction about the topic | It is true that + fact |
| **Thesis statement** (1 sentence): Briefly answer the questions (problems/causes + solutions)  Note: DON’T go into detail (What solutions are they? Who will be in charge? …) | **Problems + solutions:**  Although there will undoubtedly be some negative consequences of this trend, steps/ measures can be taken to mitigate/alleviate/address/resolve/combat/ … these potential problems.  **Causes + solutions:**  There are various reasons why .../for this, but steps can be taken to mitigate/alleviate/address/resolve/combat/ … these potential problems. |

**The Conclusion**

The function of the conclusion is to draw together the main ideas discussed in the body of the essay. The conclusion should include:

- restatement of the topic

- restatement of the thesis statement

**Important notes:**

* The job of a conclusion is to quickly repeat and summarize your overall response to the question.
* Don't include any detailed reasons or new ideas.
* One sentence is definitely enough. Instead of writing a longer conclusion, use any extra time to check your essay or to improve the main body paragraphs.

1. **Opinion**

***Some people who have been in prison become good citizens later, and it is often argued that these are the best people to talk to teenagers about the dangers of committing a crime.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

| **Introduction (thesis statement)** | **Conclusion** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I completely agree with the idea that allowing such **people** (ex-prisoners who have become productive citizens) to speak to teenagers about their experiences is the best way to discourage them from breaking the law. | In conclusion, I am totally convinced that people who have turned their lives around after serving a prison sentence could help to deter teenagers from committing crimes. |  |

***Some people think that all teenagers should be required to do unpaid work in their free time to help the local community. They believe this would benefit both the individual teenager and society as a whole.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

| **Introduction (thesis statement)** | **Conclusion** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Many young people work on a volunteer basis, and this can only be beneficial for both the individual and society. However, I disagree with the idea that we should therefore force all teenagers to do unpaid work. | In conclusion, teenagers may choose to work for free and help others, but in my opinion we should not make this compulsory. |  |

***The older generations tend to have very traditional ideas about how people should live, think and behave. However, some people believe that these ideas are not helpful in preparing younger generations for modern life.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?***

| **Introduction (thesis statement)** | **Conclusion** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| While I agree that some traditional ideas are outdated, I believe that others are still useful and should not be forgotten. | In conclusion, although the views of older people may sometimes seem unhelpful in today’s world, I believe that we should not dismiss all traditional ideas as irrelevant. |  |

| **Useful expressions** |
| --- |
| In conclusion/To conclude/To summarize/In summary, I believe that/I am convinced that/I would argue that/in my opinion + .... (repeat your opinion by paraphrasing the thesis statement). |

1. **Discussion**

***Some people believe that studying at university or college is the best route to a successful career, while others believe that it is better to get a job straight after school.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

| **Introduction (thesis statement)** | **Conclusion** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| While there are some benefits to starting work as soon as school finishes, I would argue that it is better to go to college or university. | To conclude, there are convincing arguments in favor of going to work right after graduation from high school, but I believe that students are more likely to be successful in their careers if they continue their studies beyond high school level. |  |

| **Useful expressions** |
| --- |
| In conclusion/To conclude/To summarize/In summary, (although) there are convincing arguments + both for and against … (topic)/in favor of … (weaker argument), (but) I believe that/I am convinced that/I would argue that/in my opinion + … (repeat your opinion). |

1. **Advantages & Disadvantages**

***Some people regard video games as harmless fun, or even as a useful educational tool. Others, however, believe that video games are having an adverse effect on the people who play them. In your opinion, do the drawbacks of video games outweigh the benefits?***

| **Introduction (thesis statement)** | **Conclusion** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Many people, and children in particular, enjoy playing computer games. While I accept that these games can sometimes have a positive effect on the user, I believe that they are more likely to have a harmful impact. | In conclusion, it seems to me that the potential dangers of video games are more significant than the possible benefits. |  |

| **Useful expressions** |
| --- |
| In conclusion/To conclude/To summarize/In summary, I believe that/I am convinced that/I would argue that/in my opinion that + the benefits/advantages of … (topic) are (far/substantially/much) greater the drawbacks/there are more .... than ... |

1. **Problems & Solutions**

***In the developed world, average life expectancy is increasing. What problems will this cause for individuals and society? Suggest some measures that could be taken to reduce the impact of aging populations.***

| **Introduction** | **Conclusion** | **Vocabulary for paraphrasing** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Although there will undoubtedly be some negative consequences of this **trend** (people live longer), steps can be taken to mitigate these potential problems. | To summarize, it is clear that various measures can be taken to tackle the problems that are certain to arise as the populations of countries grow older. |  |

| **Useful expressions** |
| --- |
| **Causes + solutions:**  In conclusion/To conclude/To summarize/In summary, it is clear that there are various reasons for … (topic), and solutions can be adopted to tackle/mitigate/alleviate/address/resolve/combat/… this problem.  **Problems + solutions:**  …. various measures can be taken to tackle the problems that are certain to arise as + topic. |

**The Body paragraphs**

The body of the essay is where you fully develop your argument. Each body paragraph should contain ONE key idea, which is supported by relevant examples and evidence. Each paragraph should include:

- the topic sentence (= topic + controlling idea)

- supporting ideas/ sentences (developed by means of examples, explanations, research citations, etc,. and linked by means of cohesive devices)

People overuse electricity for numerous reasons. Firstly, owing to the fast-paced life, people cannot resist the lure of electricity appliances that save them time and comfort although they know how much devastation these appliances cause to nature. For example, people use big machines to produce a lot of products at one time, use microwaves to quickly heat up the food and air conditioners to instantly cool down the room. Another reason driving the consumption of electricity is the fact that almost every household has unlimited access to it. In that case, people use electricity according to their affordability and budget instead of their need. As a result, a significant amount of electricity is wasted.