

Unit 1 Academic Writing Study Notes

Persuasive Essays 1

1. INTRODUCTION TO ESSAY WRITING

1.1

1. Read the essay question
2. Analyse the essay question
3. Brainstorm ideas for the essay
4. Identify the strong ideas in your brainstorming
5. Plan your essay
6. Write your essay
7. Review and edit your essay.

- 1.2 The writer states their opinion on a topic and explains why they hold that opinion.

2. ESSAY QUESTION ANALYSIS

2.1

Some people believe governments should try to save languages that are in danger of extinction.
To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- a. What is the topic? **Endangered languages**
- b. What is the specific focus? **Governments should save endangered languages**
- c. What is the task? **give your opinion and agree or disagree with the statement**

3. BRAINSTORMING

3.3

1. agree 100%

Languages are an important symbol of culture and customs.

2. partially agree/disagree

If sufficient funding is available, some effort should be made to save dying languages.

3. disagree 100%

Language preservation is costly and funds should be spent elsewhere.

4. ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE ESSAY

4.1

___d___ Globalisation has caused the world to become smaller and because of this a few languages have become the main languages of communication. Unfortunately, as part of this trend, many of the world's minority languages are gradually disappearing and may become extinct. ___a___ This

ESSAY PART & FUNCTION

- a. **Thesis Statement:**
Shows the writer's response to the position

<p>essay will explain why governments should try to preserve these languages as they both represent a particular culture and are a source of pride for their speakers.</p> <p><u>b</u> One reason why governments should preserve dying languages is that language is a vital connection to the cultural identity of its people. <u>e</u> Many minority languages have been used for generations to pass on traditions and culture. These traditions often represent the culture and help define the people. <u>e</u> For example, Australia's indigenous people have very close ties to the land and nature and the stories that their ancestors have passed on to the younger generations help explain the importance of nature in Aboriginal culture. Maintaining the traditional languages of the Aboriginal people helps ensure that everyone will know of the traditions and history of the original inhabitants of Australia.</p> <p><u>b</u> Another reason that governments should try to preserve languages is that they can help people to be proud of their culture. <u>e</u> When people know a language, they often take an interest in the culture and seek to learn about the art, literature, food and history related to the language. This is especially the case, if it is the language that was spoken by a person's ancestors. <u>e</u> Therefore, if governments make an effort to retain traditional languages, this will result in a more culturally rich nation that its people are proud of.</p> <p><u>g</u> In conclusion, it is important that governments endeavour to protect languages from extinction. <u>c</u> By doing so, people will develop both an understanding and knowledge of the culture and a pride in its history and traditions. <u>f</u> Therefore, governments should consider different ways that this can be done.</p>	<p>b. Topic Sentence: Provides the main ideas that support the thesis</p>
	<p>c. Summary Statement(s): Recaps/reviews main points</p>
	<p>d. Background Sentence(s): Gives broad statement to introduce the topic</p>
	<p>e. Supporting Sentence(s): Develops the main ideas with reasons, examples, etc</p>
	<p>f. Final Comment: Gives a prediction, suggestion or final remark</p>
	<p>g. Thesis Restatement: Restates the writer's response to the position</p>

5. THESIS CONSISTENCY

Thesis Statement:	position topics	governments should save endangered languages → culturally important & a source of pride for speakers
Topic Sentence 1:	position topic	languages should be preserved → important for cultural identity, traditions & history
Topic Sentence 2:	position topic	languages should be preserved → a source of national pride
Thesis Restatement:	position	government should protect languages from extinction
Summary Statement:	topic	1) understanding & knowledge of culture, 2) pride in history & traditions

6. WRITING AN ESSAY PLAN – WORKING BACKWARDS

6.1

Introduction

- **Background information:** - Globalisation → fewer main languages used for communication → minority languages disappearing / becoming extinct
- **Thesis:** - Govt. should preserve dying languages – represent culture & source of pride

Body Paragraph 1

- **Main Idea (argument 1)** - languages should be preserved → important for cultural identity, traditions & history
- **Explanation & Examples** - languages used to pass on traditions & cultural knowledge
- e.g. Australian indigenous peoples – connection to land better understood & historical information preserved via maintenance of aboriginal languages

Body Paragraph 2

- **Main Idea (argument 2):** - languages should be preserved → a source of national pride
- **Explanation & Examples** - knowledge of language → ↑ interest & ↑ pride in the culture → culturally rich nation

Conclusion

- **Thesis Restatement** : - government should protect languages from extinction
- **Summary Statement(s):** - 1) understanding & knowledge of culture, 2) pride in history & traditions
- **Final Comment:** - govt. should consider ways to preserve endangered languages

7. WRITING AN ESSAY PLAN

7.1

Old buildings should be knocked down to make way for progress.
To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- a. What is the topic? - old buildings
- b. What is the specific focus? - old buildings should be knocked down
- c. What is the task? - agree or disagree with the above

7.2 Possible reasons. You may think of other reasons.

reasons for	reasons against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - these languages represent people's cultures - used to pass on traditional stories and culture as these languages often have no written language - can learn about way of life from languages - culture could be lost - loss of a language leads to loss of culture - loss of a language leads to a lack of pride in a person's culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expensive to maintain - young people not interested in learning and speaking these languages - governments should focus on more important things such education, health, etc. - main languages such as English, French, Spanish, Mandarin are official languages and more important/useful - we should be focusing on the future, not the past

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - when people learn their traditional language, they become proud of their culture - pride in a person's own culture leads to personal pride and empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - languages that become extinct are usually only spoken by a few people, not the majority
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8. HOMEWORK TASK

8.2

Introduction

- **Background information:** *- wild animals are precious & need to be protected, but expensive*
- **Thesis:** *- cost of saving animals too high → money needed in Other areas*

Body Paragraph 1

- **Main Idea (argument 1):** *- financial & emotional cost of caring for animals too high*
- **Explanation & Examples** *- no guarantee there will be a positive outcome
- putting animals in enclosures → cause emotional stress
- relocation of animals → animals may not recover*

Body Paragraph 2

- **Main Idea(argument 2):** *- money can be better spent in other areas*
- **Explanation & Examples** *- need to ↓ poverty & ↑ literacy
- → more skilled people who can work in conservation
- money should be put into healthcare → healthy people*

Conclusion

- **Thesis Restatement:** *- financial cost too high*
- **Summary Statement(s):** *- helping animals counter-productive / solve society's problems → people better care for animals.*
- **Final Comment:** *- NO FINAL COMMENT (while a final comment helps bring the essay to a close, it is not always necessary)*