

## AVTC7\_Writing Task 2\_Advantages/ Disadvantages

# ADVANTAGE - DISADVANTAGE ESSAY

## I. Pre-writing

### 1. What is an Advantage - Disadvantage Essay?

Advantage and disadvantage essays are among the most popular essay types in the IELTS exam. When encountering this essay type, you have to write about the positive and negative points of a common situation or topic.

There are two different types of advantage and disadvantage essays requiring different approaches. Here are some examples:

#### Type 1:

*The advent of the Internet has made it possible for people to work from home. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this professional arrangement?*

#### Type 2:

*In recent years, online learning has become increasingly popular among students and educational institutions worldwide.*

*Do you think the benefits of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?*

=> Type 1 has been introduced in level 4, so this unit will focus on Type 2.

\* *Type 2 is different because we have to say if the advantages are stronger than the disadvantages.* (outweigh (verb, T): tend to be more important than something else)

## 2. Structure

OUTLINE (Type 2)	
<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Background statement:</b> Introduce a context by paraphrasing the given topic</li><li>- <b>Thesis statement:</b> state which one outweighs the other</li></ul>
<b>Body paragraph 1 (Weak side)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Topic sentence</b></li><li>- Supporting ideas (<i>advantages or disadvantages</i>)</li><li>- Supporting details (<i>Explanations/ examples/ results...</i>)</li></ul>
<b>Body paragraph 2 (Stronger side)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Topic sentence</b></li><li>- Supporting ideas (disadvantages or advantages)</li><li>- Supporting details (<i>Explanations/ examples/ results...</i>)</li></ul>
<b>Conclusion:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Summarize the main points/ Restate the thesis statement</li><li>- Give your final thought (e.g., warning, prediction, course of action, ...) - optional</li></ul>

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### 3. Useful language

#### 3.1. Introduction

##### Topic sentence

- It is true/ a fact that + [topic (N/N phrase)] + has become popular + in/ at + [place] in recent years.
- In recent decades, there has been a growing trend/ interest /concern towards + [topic (N/N phrase)].

Examples:

- ***It is true that online learning has become popular in educational institutions worldwide in recent years.***
- ***In recent decades, there has been a growing trend towards online learning due to its flexibility and accessibility.***

##### Thesis statement

- While there are certain benefits/ drawbacks of this [trend/ situation...], I believe that the + [individual, social, cultural, environmental, and economic] + drawbacks/benefits far outweigh these advantages/drawbacks. (*choose the type of benefits that you can write about in the essay*)
- Although some benefits/drawbacks can be seen from this [trend/ situation...], I believe that the drawbacks/benefits are more significant.

Examples:

- ***While there are certain drawbacks of online learning, I believe that the educational and economic benefits far outweigh these drawbacks.***
- ***Although some drawbacks can be seen from this trend of online learning, I believe that the benefits are more significant.***

#### 3.2. Body paragraphs

##### a. Weak side

##### Topic sentence:

- Those opposed to the idea of + [topic (N/ N phrase)] + say that + S + V.
- On the one hand, it is clear that + [topic (N/ N phrase)] + would bring some disadvantages/ advantages.

Examples:

- ***Those opposed to the idea of online learning say that it reduces face-to-face interaction and can lead to social isolation.***
- ***On the one hand, it is clear that online learning would bring some advantages, such as flexibility in scheduling and access to a wide range of resources.***

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### Supporting sentence

#### 1st advantage/disadvantage:

The most important disadvantage/ disadvantage of + [topic (N/ N phrase)] + is + ...

#### 2nd advantage/disadvantage:

Another drawback/benefit of [topic (N/N phrase)] + is + ...

### Supporting details

#### Explanations:

- Because/ As/ Since + S + V, S + V.
- Because of/ Due to + Noun/ Noun phrase, S + V.
- This is because + S + V.

#### Examples:

- For instance,/ For example, S + V.

#### Effects:

- As a result/ Thus/ Therefore, S + V.

#### Additional Support or Evidence:

- Additionally/ Besides/ Furthermore..., S + V.

## b. Stronger side

### Topic sentence:

- On the other hand, I believe that the advantages/downsides of this [trend/ situation/...] are more important.
- In spite of the drawbacks mentioned above, I believe that + [topic (N/ N phrase)] + is a positive trend/ development.

#### Examples:

➤ ***On the other hand, I believe that the advantages of this trend are more important.***

➤ ***In spite of the drawbacks mentioned above, I believe that online learning is a positive trend.***

### Supporting sentence

#### 1st advantage/disadvantage:

The first disadvantage/ disadvantage of + [topic (N/ N phrase)] + is + .... .

#### 2nd advantage/disadvantage:

Another drawback/benefit of [topic (N/NP)] + is + ..... .

### Supporting details

#### Explanations:

- Because/ As/ Since + S + V, S + V.

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- Because of/ Due to + Noun/ Noun phrase, S + V.
- This is because + S + V.

### Examples:

- For instance,/ For example, S + V.

### Effects:

- As a result/ Thus/ Therefore, S + V.

### Additional Support or Evidence:

- Additionally/ Besides/ Furthermore..., S + V.

## 3.3. Conclusion

### Summarize the main points/ Restate thesis statement:

- In conclusion, while + [topic (N/ N phrase)] + may have some negative aspects/ disadvantages, I believe they are outweighed by the more significant positive aspects/ advantages.
- In conclusion, there is (are) drawback(s) to + [topic (N/ N phrase)]. However, it seems to me that its advantages would be more important regarding + [advantages 1 & 2 mentioned in the essay].

Example:

*In conclusion, while remote learning may have some negative aspects, I believe they are outweighed by the more significant advantages.*

### Give your final thought (e.g., warning, prediction, course of action, ...) - optional

- If S + V, S1 + V1.
- [Governments/ The society/ Companies/ Individual...] + should S + V.

Example:

*If technology continues to develop, online learning will become even more effective.*

SYNONYMS		
Advantages	Disadvantages	Outweigh
benefits	drawbacks	be more significant
merits	demerits	be more important
good point	challenges	overshadow
upsides	downsides	
positive aspects	negative aspects	

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### 4. Brainstorm and outline

International travel is becoming cheaper, and countries are opening their doors to more and more tourists. Do the advantages of increased tourism outweigh the disadvantages?

*Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience. Write at least 250 words.*

(Source: IELTS Recent Actual writing test)

**Task 1:** Complete the following T-chart to brainstorm ideas for the writing topic above.

Advantages	Disadvantages

**Task 2.** From the outline in Task 1, complete the detailed outline for the writing task. Remember to use the language in 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3.

<b>Introduction</b>	Background statement: ..... Thesis statement: .....
<b>Body paragraph 1 (weaker side)</b>	Topic sentence: ..... Supporting idea 1 (1st advantage): ..... Supporting detail 1 (Explanations/Examples/Results...): ..... Supporting idea 2 (2nd advantage): ..... Supporting detail 2 (Explanations/Examples/Results...): .....
<b>Body paragraph 2 (stronger side)</b>	Topic sentence: ..... Supporting idea 1 (1st disadvantage): ..... Supporting detail 1 (Explanations/Examples/Results...) ..... .....

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	<p>Supporting idea 2 (2nd disadvantage):</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Supporting detail 2 (Explanations/Examples/Results...):</p> <p><i>Local languages might be lost as people prefer to use international languages such as English or Chinese to communicate with foreign tourists.</i></p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>Summarize the essay and restate your opinion:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Give your final thought (<i>e.g., warning, prediction, course of action, ...</i>) - optional</p> <p>.....</p>