

# Writing reference

## How to write a discussion essay

In a discussion essay we present a balanced argument, giving points for and against a topic. We give our own opinion of at the end the essay.

### Remember!

#### 1 Structure

- In the introductory paragraph, write a statement that explains the topic and say that there are arguments for and against this idea.
- In the next paragraph, give the points for the topic or the advantages.
- In the next paragraph, give the points against the topic or the disadvantages.
- In the last paragraph, sum up the arguments and give your conclusion.

#### 2 Content

- Start by writing down a list of points for and against OR advantages and disadvantages.
- Choose the easiest points to write about and group them into paragraphs.
- Think of facts or ideas to support your arguments.
- Use linkers to introduce your ideas and to make additional points.

### Useful language

**Starting:** Many people say / think that ... / It is true that ... / There are many reasons for ...

**Commenting on the question:** This is not an easy question. / There isn't a clear answer ... / We must look at both sides of the question.

**Introducing points:** Firstly, ... / Secondly, ... / On the one hand, ... / One advantage is that ...

**Contrast:** On the other hand, ... / However, ... / But ...

**Adding:** What's more, ... / In addition, ... / Furthermore, ... / Moreover, ... / too / as well / also

**Reason and result:** This is because ... / Because ... / So ... / Therefore ...

**Concluding:** On balance, ... / In my opinion, ... / In conclusion, ...

### Model question

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of being a celebrity today.

### Model answer

Nearly everyone thinks that they would like to be famous. However, there are also disadvantages to being in the public eye. We must look at both sides of the question.

It is true that if you are famous people recognize you all the time and ask for your autograph. You belong to a special group of people and this can be fun. In addition to this, fame usually brings money. A very big advantage of being a celebrity is that you probably live in a fantastic house, drive a fast car and have holidays in wonderful places.

On the other hand, it is not always easy being a celebrity today. A major disadvantage is that it becomes difficult to have a private life. People come up to you in the supermarket and in the street. Journalists take photos of you in your home, on the beach, or after a late party! What's more, some people become obsessed with celebrities and follow them everywhere.

On balance, I think the life of a celebrity has disadvantages, but it also has a lot of attractions. I would like to have the opportunity to try it!

stating situation

adding

comment

points for

adding

contrast

points against

adding

conclusion and opinion