

Discussion scaffold

Purpose

To examine both sides of an argument and then give your opinion at the end.

Types of discussion

- Essays
- Blogs
- Editorials
- Letters to the editor
- Debating speeches

Structure

Statement of thesis or issue	Statement of the issue and the arguments for and against.
Paragraphs containing arguments for and against the issue	Each paragraph makes a point for or against supported by elaboration.
Conclusion	The conclusion provides the writer's opinion on the issue.

Note that there are two ways to structure a discussion:

Discussion 1	Discussion 2
Statement of thesis or issue	Statement of thesis or issue
2 or 3 paragraphs for the issue	1 paragraph for the issue followed by a paragraph giving the counter argument on this point.
2 or 3 paragraphs against the issue	A second paragraph for the issue followed by a paragraph giving the counter argument on this point.
Conclusion providing the writer's point of view	A third paragraph for the issue followed by a paragraph giving the counter argument on this point.
	Conclusion providing the writer's point of view

Language

- short paragraphs
- formal language
- emotive language to persuade which may include use of second person eg in rhetorical questions
- nominalisation
- present tense
- quotations and facts to support argument
- third person
- first person in letters, blogs and speeches