

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Learning Objective: To write for a range of purposes.

Learning Outcome: I can write a balanced discussion.

# Introducing Your Argument

To begin writing your argument, you need an opening paragraph. This needs to introduce the argument in a clear, concise and interesting way. Here's the opening paragraph in the example:

Anyone who has ever been to school knows what it is like to be sent home with piles of homework. For years, teachers have been setting extra maths, spellings and other assignments to be completed outside of regular lesson times. But with the increasing pressures of modern-day life, **there is a growing call for homework to be banned.** Here are some of the arguments for and against.

Third person	Introducing argument	Explaining what you will be doing in the balanced argument

You need to introduce the issue in your argument now. Remember, set out the argument clearly!

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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# Writing the Argument

► Once you have written the introduction to the argument, you then have to write about the different points.

► Use your for and against plan to help you to organise your writing. After the introduction, start a new paragraph with a 'for' argument. Remember to write in the third person and to use formal language.

► On the next paragraph, write an opposing view from the 'against' column of your plan.

► Do this until you have two paragraphs in favour and two paragraphs against.

► Then, it's time for the final paragraph...



For

Can you remember the first argument in the example?

The first argument in the example is that many people think homework is an important part of school life and that it helps pupils continue their learning at home.

*Many people see homework as an important part of school life; it is an extension of the lesson. If the teacher cannot fit everything that is needed to be taught into the lesson, then being able to set homework is essential. This way, pupils can continue the learning at home, which in turn helps their understanding and knowledge of the subject. In fact, recent research shows a positive link between the amount children do for homework and their achievement levels.*

*Remember, this example is all about whether banning homework is a good or bad idea. Your issue will have different arguments. Thinking about this model, can you write your first paragraph in favour of your issue.*

Against

Can you remember the second argument in the example?

The second argument in the example is that many people think homework is an important part of school life and that it helps pupils continue their learning at home.

*On the other hand, it has been argued that children should be entitled to a break from learning. After spending all day at school, a few hours 'downtime' spent watching television, playing computer games or exercising outside is essential for a healthy, fun-loving child. In fact, the government's own health guidelines recommend people aged between the age of five and eighteen should exercise for at least sixty minutes a day. Where are children going to fit that in if they are busy doing homework every evening?*

*Remember, this example is all about whether banning homework is a good or bad idea. Your issue will have different arguments. Thinking about this model, can you write your second paragraph giving the opposing point of view.*

*There are lots of things to think about whilst you are writing:*

- *Present tense*
- *Formal Language*
- *Semicolons to mark closely related and independent clauses*
- *Statistics to make your argument more believable*
- *Conjunctions*
- *Paragraphs*

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Learning Objective: To write for a range of purposes.

Learning Outcome: I can write a conclusion to a balanced discussion.

# Final Paragraph

The final paragraph is a bit different. It concludes the argument and includes your own opinion. It is written in the first person. Here is the final paragraph in the example.

*In conclusion, there are many strong arguments for and against banning homework from schools. If it helps a child's education, then surely homework is a good thing. Furthermore, time away from studying to play is also incredibly important to a child's wellbeing. On balance, I don't believe homework should be banned because it really is an important part of learning. However, I also believe there should still be time in the day for fun! Therefore, perhaps schools should come up with a compromise: keep homework whilst ensuring that there is not too much.*

Concluding the argument	Your opinion	First person

Now write the final paragraph for your argument.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Learning Objective: To edit and improve writing.

Learning Outcome: I can edit and improve my own writing.

Check back through your writing. Ensure that you have used punctuation correctly - especially capital letters, full stops and commas to mark clauses. Then, tick the success criteria which you have achieved.



# What makes a good balanced discussion?



	Outcome	Student	Teacher
<b>Green Standard</b>	I can write a question as a title.		
	I can write the main part of the argument in the present tense.		
	I can use higher level conjunctions to move my argument forward.		
	I can use facts and statistics to make my balanced argument more convincing.		
	I can use semi colons to mark closely linked independent clauses.		
<b>Gold Standard</b>	I can use a full range of punctuation to add extra information to a main clause. - , ( ) -		
	I can vary the way that I structure my sentences.		