



Discussion essays

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Writing task 2
Session4

Discussion topics

- Discussion topics are of two kinds:
 - Black Vs. white
 - Black Vs. gray and brown



IELTS 8 (Academic- test 1)

Black Vs. White

- **Some people think that parents should teach children how to be good members of society. Others, however, believe that the school is the place to learn this.**

discuss both these views and give your own opinion.



IELTS 14 (Academic test 2)

Black Vs. Gray

- Some people say that the main environmental problem of our time is the loss of particular species of plants and animals. Others say that there are **more** important environmental problems.

discuss both these views and give your own opinion.



Argument Vs. opinion

- Argument is the side that you agree with. This is the side that you have more/better ideas to write on.
- Opinion is the side that you do not agree with or disagree to a point.
- Draw a mind map and decide on your argument and opinion.



what the heck are u talking about? IDEA?!

A counterargument involves acknowledging standpoints that go against your argument and then re-affirming your argument. This is typically done by stating the opposing side's argument, and then ultimately presenting your argument as the most logical solution.



You have to make a logical argument by acknowledging the view (at least)



Developing a counter argument:

- Present the other part by phrases like: “some other people believe that”..
- Do not write strong arguments here. Remember, this is the part you are against, so it cannot be very strong.
- A lot of explanation or even examples might weaken your point of view. Make sure the other side (the one you agree with and not this one) is stronger.

A rebuttal at the end of counter argument (strong view)

- present why you do not believe in the other side's opinion. we call this rebuttal:
- There are two major types of counter-argument:
 - Why I simply think the other side is not right. (but I believe this is not right)
 - Why technically (or scientifically) the other side is completely wrong. I mean better explanation.



**Loss of species of plants and animals
(disagree)**

**More important problems
(Agree)**

Poaching and hunting is the problem.
Nature does not let the weak survive.

Rebuttal :I do not think they are really important

Climate change → rise in sea levels → habitable areas disappear → no serious action done → future is not good

Plastic waste is bad → animals trapped and die (also) takes centuries to disappear (also) gets in the food chain and kills animals.



Body (opinion[counterargument]+ rebuttal)

Survival of the fittest is the nature's ruthless way of removing the weak forms of flora and fauna, although humankind has also contributed by hunting and poaching. **However, whether this issue has to be considered the most important environmental problem of the time is debatable. Climate change and discarding plastic waste are just two of the most important problems which need immediate attention.**



Argument

The evidence of climate change is visible to everyone. Rising sea level and floods has caused loss of houses for millions around the world. So many habitable areas are disappearing due to this rise while so many countries have lost their agricultural land. But there seems to be no serious action taking place. Unless the world plans how to solve the issue immediately, the future of human being is in peril.



Is rebuttal always necessary in discussion essays?

No, write a counterargument when you disagree. If you do not really disagree and you think opinions are really important too, write a third paragraph and explain your own view.



Discussion Essays style

	Middle-view idea	Strong idea
Body paragraph 1	Side 1+ Possible problems	Side 2 + Rebuttal
Body paragraph 2	Side 2+ Possible problems	Argument 1
Body paragraph 3	Your argument	Argument 2 (if necessary)



Writing an introduction for discussion

- The hook (optional)
- The two sides
- Your opinion



Some people argue that zoos help to preserve wild creatures, while others say that they are inhumane and should be abolished.

From: <https://www.ieltsjacky.com/ielts-discussion-essays.html>



Some people argue that zoos help to preserve wild creatures, while others say that they are inhumane and should be abolished. Although the breeding programs help save the endangered species, I believe that the poor conditions animals are held in are unacceptable.



Introducing the two sides

- Some people argue that... while others say that...
- It is considered by some... while there are others who think...
- It is often argued that... whilst others disagree and think...

- You can make the same sentences using although and whereas



conclusion

- State your opinion firmly
- Restate the reasons you mentioned in body paragraphs (using although)
- do not mention anything new, like an irrelevant solution.



Homework

- Choose one of the discussion topics presented (black, gray and brown) and write your answer fully.
- Try to make sure you use the following grammar points correctly: most students have difficulty with:
 - Tense
 - Passive
 - Relative clauses
 - punctuation





Thank
you