

UNTERRICHTS MATERIALIEN

Englisch Sek. II



How to write an argumentative text
Das Schreiben einer Erörterung Schritt für Schritt trainieren

Survey of topics and methods

Main focus						Material
	Structuring a discussion	Writing introductions and conclusions	Finding the right topic sentence	Writing a discussion	Peer evaluation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The basic structure of a written discussion ■ Theme: Spending time abroad to improve one's language skills 	•					<p>Topic 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Guideline: How to structure a written discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Writing introductions and conclusions ■ Theme: Volunteering and voluntourism 		•				<p>Topic 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Info boxes on how to write an introduction and a conclusion ■ Cartoon "I'm going to India to find myself" ■ Quotation by Mahatma Gandhi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identifying and writing topic sentences ■ Theme: Hospitality networks 			•			<p>Topic 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Draft of a written discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Composing a complete written discussion ■ Theme: Spending a school year abroad 		•		•		<p>Topic 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Help sheet: How to write the main part
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Writing discussions on further topics ■ Evaluating a partner's written discussion ■ Themes: The challenges of starting a career; smartphones at school; attitudes towards school 	•	•	•	•	•	<p>Topic 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Help sheet: How to express your opinion – useful vocabulary ■ Peer evaluation sheet



How to structure a written discussion

In a test, you are often asked to express your personal opinion on a topic in the form of a written discussion. So, you need to show that you can discuss the pros and cons of an issue in a well-structured way. To do this, use the following four steps to create the three major parts of the text, the introduction, the main part and the conclusion:

Steps	Parts of the text	What you do ...
1.		collect ideas, take notes
2.	Introduction	present the question/issue
3.	Main part	a) present arguments in favour of + examples or explanations b) present arguments against + examples or explanations
4.	Conclusion	briefly sum up your personal opinion and give a final comment

Now let's take a closer look at the four steps.

Step 1: Take notes about the topic.

- ✓ This helps you to **structure** your arguments in a logical order, e.g. first the advantages (pros), then the disadvantages (cons).
- ✓ Think about examples and explanations you could give to support your arguments.

Step 2: Start by writing the introduction to the topic.

- ✓ To **get your reader curious and interested** in the topic, you could refer to a recent event, a personal experience or a famous person talking about the problem.
- ✓ Make it clear **why it is important** to discuss the issue.

Main Part 2: Disadvantages

K	Additionally, there cannot be any doubt that many companies prefer young employees.
L	Another potential problem is that you might end up spending most of your time with other travellers who speak your own language, so the trip may turn out to be rather useless for developing your English skills and intercultural competence.
M	Firstly, if your aim is mainly to improve your English, it takes a lot of time to do it in this way because you will rather spend time on sightseeing and socialising instead of focusing on grammar and vocabulary.
N	However, the disadvantages of spending time in another country should also be considered.
O	Consequently, you may have an advantage when you start early with your job training and are younger than other competitors on the job market.
P	Last but not least, if you really want to improve your language skills and career options, I tend to think it might be even better to learn a less common foreign language like Japanese or Danish.
Q	What is more, travelling is quite expensive and requires a lot of organisation.

Conclusion

R	In conclusion, I personally think that the question whether spending time abroad broadens your mind and improves your language skills depends on your attitude and ambitions in the end.
S	Yet, it may be a waste of time if it is just chosen as a way of postponing the difficult decision of what to do with your life after school.
T	Considering all the upsides and downsides, travelling represents an attractive option for some adventurous individuals who want more than just to improve their language skills.