

# What is IELTS Task 2 Discussion Essay Format?

## Worksheet

A discussion essay presents both viewpoints on a topic objectively and fairly. Structure: introduction (context and topic overview), one paragraph for viewpoint 1, one paragraph for viewpoint 2, conclusion (either a balanced summary or your own position if asked).

## Questions

1. What is the main purpose of a discussion essay?

- A) To argue strongly for one position
- B) To present and analyze both sides of an issue objectively
- C) To criticize opposing viewpoints
- D) To teach the reader about a topic

2. Which language phrase is most appropriate for introducing a viewpoint objectively?

- A) Obviously, I think that
- B) Some people argue that
- C) Everyone knows that
- D) It's clear that

3. How should the conclusion of a discussion essay differ from an opinion essay?

- A) It must strongly support one viewpoint
- B) It can be neutral or present your own balanced view
- C) It should introduce new arguments
- D) It should dismiss one side entirely

4. When presenting opposing viewpoints, what should you do?

- A) Show that one is clearly wrong
- B) Present valid arguments for both with equal weight
- C) Avoid mentioning the weaker viewpoint
- D) Make your preference obvious

5. Essay topic: 'Some people think air travel is essential; others argue it damages the environment.' Discuss both views.

6. Essay topic: 'Should higher education be free for all students? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.'

7. Essay topic: 'Remote work is the future of employment. Discuss positive and negative aspects.'

8. Define: What is the key difference between opinion and discussion essays?

9. Define: How should you structure arguments in each viewpoint?

10. Define: Do you have to choose a side in a discussion essay?

## Answer Key

1. B) To present and analyze both sides of an issue objectively — Discussion essays require balanced presentation of multiple perspectives without bias.
2. B) Some people argue that — 'Some people argue that' maintains neutrality and objectivity when presenting a perspective.
3. B) It can be neutral or present your own balanced view — Discussion conclusions can remain balanced or, if the prompt requests, present your own nuanced position.
4. B) Present valid arguments for both with equal weight — Effective discussion essays give fair, balanced treatment to both perspectives.
5. Introduction: Air travel plays a crucial role in global connectivity, yet environmental concerns are growing. Both perspectives deserve consideration. Viewpoint 1 (Pro-air travel): Air travel enables business communication and tourism, connecting people worldwide. The aviation industry supports millions of jobs globally and contributes significantly to economies. Viewpoint 2 (Against air travel): Air travel is a major source of carbon emissions, contributing substantially to climate change. It also consumes vast amounts of fuel and damages the ozone layer. Conclusion: While air travel brings economic and social benefits, environmental impacts are severe. A balanced approach involving technological innovation to reduce emissions might address both concerns.
6. Introduction: The question of whether higher education should be tuition-free generates significant debate, with valid arguments on both sides. Advantages: Free education increases access for low-income students, reduces inequality, and develops a more educated workforce. Countries like Germany and Norway demonstrate this model's success. Disadvantages: Free education requires massive government funding, potentially increasing taxes. It may also reduce quality if resources are spread too thin, and doesn't guarantee employment success. Conclusion: While free education has merits in promoting equality, practical funding challenges and quality concerns are significant. A hybrid approach—subsidized but not free tuition—might balance accessibility and sustainability.
7. Introduction: Remote work adoption has accelerated dramatically, bringing both opportunities and challenges to modern employment. Positive aspects: Remote work improves work-life balance, eliminates commuting stress, and increases productivity. Employees save time and money while employers reduce office costs. Negative aspects: Remote work can lead to isolation and reduced team collaboration. Face-to-face communication challenges may hinder innovation and company culture development. Conclusion: Remote work undoubtedly offers benefits for many roles and workers. However, its suitability depends on industry, job type, and individual preferences. A flexible hybrid approach seems most promising.
8. Opinion essays require you to take a clear position; discussion essays present both viewpoints objectively without necessarily taking a side.
9. Each viewpoint should include a main argument, supporting reasons, and specific examples or evidence.
10. Not necessarily. You can present a balanced conclusion. However, some prompts ask for your own position—read carefully.

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