

What is a Discussion Essay (Both Views)?

Worksheet

A discussion essay with both views examines opposing opinions equally, then concludes with your stance. Structure: introduction → view 1 → view 2 → your opinion → conclusion.

Questions

1. In a both-views essay, after presenting side 1, what comes next?
A) Your opinion
B) Side 2
C) Conclusion
D) New topic
2. How should you present the opposing view?
A) Weakly, to dismiss it
B) Fairly and persuasively
C) Sarcastically
D) Briefly without detail
3. What is the tone of a both-views essay?
A) Argumentative and aggressive
B) Neutral and balanced
C) Humorous and casual
D) Uncertain and vague
4. Can you change your opinion in the conclusion?
A) No, it must match your introduction
B) Yes, new evidence can shift your view
C) Never mention your view in conclusion
D) Conclusions never discuss opinion
5. Prompt: 'Some people believe university education is essential for success; others think practical skills matter more. Discuss both sides and your opinion.'
6. Prompt: 'Should governments invest in renewable energy or fossil fuels? Discuss both.'
7. Prompt: 'Is remote work beneficial or harmful? Discuss both views.'
8. Define: What is a discussion essay with both views?
9. Define: What is the key word in 'balanced discussion'?
10. Define: Can you agree with one side entirely?

Answer Key

1. B) Side 2 — Always present side 2 before revealing your stance.
2. B) Fairly and persuasively — Fair presentation of opposing views is the hallmark of a strong both-views essay.
3. B) Neutral and balanced — Neutrality while examining both sides is crucial; your stance comes last.
4. B) Yes, new evidence can shift your view — Your stance can evolve after examining both views; this shows thoughtful reasoning.
5. View 1 (Pro university): Qualifications, social networks, better salaries. View 2 (Pro skills): Plumbers/electricians earn well, less debt, faster career start. Your stance: Both complement each other; ideal path combines formal + vocational training. Conclusion: Context and passion determine the better route.
6. View 1 (Renewables): Sustainable, cost-dropping, no pollution. View 2 (Fossil fuels): Proven infrastructure, cheaper now, millions employed. Your stance: Renewable shift necessary despite transition costs. Conclusion: Long-term climate imperative outweighs short-term fossil comfort.
7. View 1 (Pro): Flexibility, time saved commuting, work-life balance. View 2 (Con): Isolation, lower productivity, communication gaps, career stagnation. Your stance: Remote works for some roles/personalities, not all. Conclusion: Hybrid models best suit diverse workforce needs.
8. An essay that fairly presents two opposing perspectives, then gives your own stance.
9. Fair — give each side equal weight and persuasive power.
10. Yes, but first present the other side fairly and then explain why your side is stronger.

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