

UNTERRICHTS MATERIALIEN

Englisch Sek. II



How to write an argumentative text

Das Schreiben einer Erörterung Schritt für Schritt trainieren

Themenkreis „Methodentraining und Arbeitstechniken“

How to write an argumentative text - a writing skill training (part 3)

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Kompetenzprofil

- Niveaustufe: B2/C1 (Europäische Referenzrahmen)
- Kompetenzbereiche: *writing, reading*
- Aufgabenformate: *Writing a discussion, structuring a written discussion, writing an introduction and a conclusion, finding a topic sentence, peer evaluation*
- Medien: *Zitate, Cartoons, Fotos, Infokästen, Vokabelhilfen, Bewertungsbogen*

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Worksheet: How to structure a written discussion

“I lived in England to learn English. When I went to England for the first time, it was like being on the Moon. I had no friends, I couldn’t speak the language. I was very isolated.”

– Jean Alesi, French racing driver, born 1964.

Source: www.brainyquote.com/quotes/jean_alesi_331985



Discussion topic:

In order to be successful in a globalised world, you need to spend some time abroad to broaden your horizons and to improve your English skills. Discuss.

Structuring a written discussion

1. Read the draft written by a student in response to the task above. The sentences are not in the right order. Underline the expressions which may help you to structure the text correctly.
2. Reorganise the discussion by writing the correct numbers in front of the sentences.

Introduction

A		In the following, I am going to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of spending time in a foreign country.
B		While many people believe that living abroad is a valuable experience, others find it hard to cope with a different culture and language.
C	1	Jean Alesi, a French racing driver, spent some time living in England, where he suffered from loneliness and alienation.

Writing an introduction

1. Write an introduction of three or more sentences on the following topics.

Topic 1:

Assess if you think **volunteering** for several months in another country is attractive or a waste of time for you personally.

Look at the quote and cartoon below for inspiration, then write an introductory paragraph on the topic.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
– Mahatma Gandhi

Source: www.brainyquote.com/quotes/mahatma_gandhi_150



Topic 2:

Discuss the implications of **voluntourism**.

Voluntourism: Profit-making companies organise safe short-term periods of volunteer work in another country and add tourist sightseeing to their package.

As an example, you may check www.metowe.com

How to write a good topic sentence

INFO The topic sentence

The main part of your written discussion should consist of several paragraphs. Each paragraph should develop a **single argument only**. Usually, the first sentence in a paragraph is **the topic sentence which expresses what the whole paragraph is about**. The other sentences in the paragraph add more information such as details and examples.

Finding the right topic sentence

1. Read the draft below written by a student in response to the following task:

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of hospitality networks.

The topic sentence for each paragraph is missing.

- a) Choose the right topic sentence for paragraphs 1 and 2.
- b) Write your own topic sentence for paragraphs 3 to 6.
- c) Write a concluding paragraph to the topic from your point of view.

Introductory paragraph

When students and young people decide to travel and discover other parts of the world, they often do so on a low budget. One form of alternative travel is hospitality exchange networks. They connect travellers with people living in the cities they are visiting. Through these social networks that offer a website and/or an app (for example “CouchSurfing”), travellers may stay overnight at a stranger’s house for free. Couchsurfing represents a hotly debated topic among travellers. I will weigh up the pros and cons of hospitality networks in the following.



How to discuss advantages and disadvantages

Many students dream of spending a school year abroad while others are quite sceptical and fear culture shock. What is your view on a school year abroad?



Writing a discussion

1. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of going to school in another country for a year and give your personal opinion.
 - a) Write an interesting **introduction** (see the worksheet „*Introductions and conclusions*“).
 - b) Now discuss the advantages and disadvantages. To help you write the **main part** you can use the help sheet “How to write the main part“. There you will also find some topic sentences for the main arguments, together with notes containing more ideas. Use these notes to turn the topic sentences into full paragraphs with several sentences.
 - c) Write a **personal conclusion** (see the worksheet „*Introductions and conclusions*“).

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