

From paragraphs to Academic Writing

with IELTS examples

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Overview of Two Common Structures

Purpose

Understanding common essay structures is crucial for writing clear, coherent, and persuasive arguments, especially in contexts like the IELTS exam.

Model 1

Discuss Both Views

- Balanced approach
- Examines two sides of an issue
- Concludes with your opinion

Model 2

Agree or Disagree

- One-sided argument
- Persuades the reader of your position
- Consistent viewpoint throughout

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Model 1: Structure for "Discuss Both Views"

This structure is ideal for questions asking you to examine two opposing perspectives.

- **Paragraph 1: Introduction**

- General introduction to the topic.
- **Thesis Statement:** State that both views will be discussed and hint at your own position.

- **Paragraph 2: Body (Side A)**

- **Topic Sentence:** Introduce the first viewpoint.
- Supporting Sentence: Explain the point.
- Evidence/Example: Provide a specific example.

- **Paragraph 3: Body (Side A, continued)**

- **Topic Sentence:** Introduce a second argument for the first viewpoint.
- Supporting Sentence & Evidence.

- **Paragraph 4: Body (Side B)**

- **Topic Sentence:** Introduce the opposing viewpoint.
- Supporting Sentence & Evidence.

- **Paragraph 5: Conclusion**

- Summarize the main points.
- State your own opinion clearly.

Model 2: Structure for "Do You Agree or Disagree?"

This is a persuasive essay where you take a strong, consistent stance.

- **Paragraph 1: Introduction**

- General background on the topic.
- **Thesis Statement:** Clearly state whether you agree or disagree.

- **Paragraph 2: Body (Reason 1 & 2)**

- **Topic Sentence:** Present your first reason.
- Supporting Sentence & Evidence.
- *Transition Word (e.g., Furthermore, Moreover).*
- **Topic Sentence:** Present your second, related reason.
- Supporting Sentence & Evidence.

- **Paragraph 3: Body (Reason 3)**

- **Topic Sentence:** Present your third reason.
- Supporting Sentence & Evidence.

- **Paragraph 4: Conclusion**

- Restate your opinion.

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Sample 1 (Model 1): Government Policy

Essay Question

Some people think that governments should invest more in public services, such as public transport and libraries. Others believe that money would be better spent on promoting the arts. **Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

Introduction

The allocation of public funds is a perennial subject of debate. This essay will examine the rationale behind both perspectives before arguing that investment in public services yields more widespread and fundamental benefits for a society.

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Sample 1 (Model 1): Body Paragraphs

Body Paragraph 1 (View A: Public Services)

The primary argument for prioritizing public services is that they form the backbone of a functional and equitable society. These services directly address the daily needs of citizens. For instance, a reliable bus network allows people to commute to work, stimulating economic growth.

Body Paragraph 2 (View B: The Arts)

On the other hand, proponents of arts funding argue that it is a vital investment in a nation's cultural identity. Museums and theatres preserve heritage and foster innovation. A city renowned for its vibrant arts scene can attract tourism, which in turn generates significant revenue.

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Sample 1 (Model 1): Conclusion

Conclusion

In conclusion, while both are valuable, I believe that public services are more fundamental, as they ensure that the basic needs of the populace are met. Therefore, governments should prioritize funding for essential services first.

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Sample 2 (Model 2): Education

Essay Question

Some people believe that university students should pay the full cost of their own education. **To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Introduction

The question of who should bear the cost of higher education is a complex issue with significant social and economic implications. **This essay will argue strongly against the proposition that students should bear the full financial burden, as this policy creates social inequality and hinders national progress.**

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Sample 2 (Model 2): Body Paragraphs

Body Paragraph 1

Firstly, making students pay full tuition fees creates a significant barrier for individuals from lower-income backgrounds. This system can entrench privilege, as only the wealthy can afford higher education, leading to a less diverse skilled workforce and wasted national talent.

Body Paragraph 2

Furthermore, a highly educated populace is a public good that benefits the entire nation, not just the individual graduate. Graduates contribute more in taxes, drive innovation, and fill critical roles in sectors like healthcare and engineering, meaning state-funded education is an investment in a country's future.

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Sample 2 (Model 2): Conclusion

Conclusion

To conclude, I completely disagree with the idea that students should pay for the entirety of their university education. The societal benefits of an accessible higher education system are immense, and governments have a responsibility to invest in their future generations by making it affordable.

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Sample 3 (Model 1): Environment

Essay Question

Some people think that the best way to solve environmental problems is to increase the cost of fuel. Others believe there are better ways. **Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

Introduction

As environmental degradation becomes an increasingly urgent global issue, the debate over the most effective solutions has intensified. **This essay will explore the argument for using high fuel costs as a deterrent, as well as alternative approaches, before concluding that a multi-faceted strategy is superior.**

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Sample 3 (Model 1): Body Paragraphs

Body Paragraph 1 (View A: High Fuel Cost)

The primary argument for raising fuel prices is that it directly disincentivizes the consumption of fossil fuels. According to basic economic principles, a higher cost leads to lower demand, which could encourage more people to use public transport or switch to electric vehicles.

Body Paragraph 2 (View B: Alternatives)

However, critics argue that there are more effective and equitable solutions. These include large-scale government investment in renewable energy infrastructure, stricter emissions regulations for industries, and international agreements to combat climate change collectively.

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Sample 3 (Model 1): Conclusion

Conclusion

In conclusion, while increasing the price of fuel may contribute to solving environmental issues, it is not the best and only way. In my opinion, it is an overly simplistic solution that can disproportionately affect the poor. A broader approach that combines investment, regulation, and education is far more likely to succeed.

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Sample 4 (Model 1): Culture

Essay Question

Some people think tourists should accept the traditions of the country they are visiting. Others believe the host country should welcome cultural differences. **Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

Introduction

The rise of global tourism has sparked a debate about cultural exchange and etiquette. **This essay will examine both the responsibility of tourists to adapt and the duty of host nations to be accommodating, before arguing that mutual respect is the key to positive interactions.**

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Sample 4 (Model 1): Body Paragraphs

Body Paragraph 1 (View A: Tourists Adapt)

There is a strong case that visitors have a responsibility to respect local customs. Doing so prevents causing offense and enriches the travel experience. For example, dressing modestly when visiting religious sites shows respect for the local faith and culture.

Body Paragraph 2 (View B: Host Welcomes)

Conversely, it is argued that host countries should be tolerant of cultural diversity. A welcoming attitude encourages tourism, which is a vital part of many economies. Expecting foreigners to understand every local nuance is unrealistic and could deter visitors.

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Sample 4 (Model 1): Conclusion

Conclusion

In conclusion, while both sides have valid points, I believe the greater responsibility lies with the tourist to be informed and respectful. Although a host country should be welcoming, visitors are guests in another culture and should behave accordingly to ensure a positive exchange for everyone involved.

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Sample 5 (Model 2): Technology

Essay Question

The use of technology in education has more advantages than disadvantages. **To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Introduction

Technology has become deeply integrated into modern education, fundamentally changing how students learn and teachers instruct. **This essay strongly agrees that the benefits of this trend, such as enhanced access to information and personalized learning, far outweigh the drawbacks.**

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Sample 5 (Model 2): Body Paragraphs

Body Paragraph 1

The most significant advantage of educational technology is the unparalleled access it provides to information. Students are no longer limited to textbooks; they can explore global libraries, watch expert lectures, and use interactive simulations, making learning more engaging and comprehensive.

Body Paragraph 2

Moreover, technology facilitates personalized learning experiences tailored to individual student needs. Adaptive software can identify a student's weak points and provide targeted exercises, allowing learners to progress at their own pace, which is often impossible in a traditional classroom setting.

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Sample 5 (Model 2): Conclusion

Conclusion

In summary, I firmly believe that technology is a powerful and positive force in education. While potential issues like the digital divide and distraction exist, they are manageable problems. The immense advantages in access to knowledge and customized instruction confirm that its role in schools is highly beneficial.

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Sample 6 (Model 1): Society

Essay Question

Some people believe a high salary is the most important factor in a job. Others think job satisfaction is more important. **Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

Introduction

Choosing a career often involves weighing financial reward against personal fulfillment. This essay will discuss the arguments for prioritizing both high income and job satisfaction, ultimately contending that satisfaction is the more critical component for long-term well-being.

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Sample 6 (Model 1): Body Paragraphs

Body Paragraph 1 (View A: High Salary)

The argument for prioritizing a high salary is rooted in the need for financial security. A substantial income provides for basic needs, supports a family, and allows for a comfortable lifestyle. It can reduce stress and open doors to opportunities like better healthcare and education for one's children.

Body Paragraph 2 (View B: Job Satisfaction)

On the other hand, many believe job satisfaction is paramount because work constitutes a major part of life. A fulfilling job that provides a sense of purpose and a positive work environment contributes more to overall happiness and mental health than money alone can.

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Sample 6 (Model 1): Conclusion

Conclusion

To conclude, while a good salary is undeniably important for a stable life, it is not sufficient for a happy one. In my view, job satisfaction is ultimately more important because emotional well-being and a sense of purpose are the true foundations of a fulfilling life.

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Writing Practice: Task 1

Model 1 Style Question (Discuss Both Views)

Some people believe that developed countries have a responsibility to provide financial aid to developing nations. Others argue that this aid is often ineffective and that countries should focus on their own domestic problems first. **Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

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Model 2 Style Question (Agree or Disagree)

The increasing development of Artificial Intelligence will have more negative than positive effects on society in the future. **To what extent do you agree or disagree?**