

Fast Five

Decide whether each statement about a discussion text is true or false:

- They are one-sided
- They are formal
- They should never include your own opinion

Fast Five Answers

Decide whether each statement about a discussion text is true or false:

- They are one-sided **False- they should include arguments for and against.**
- They are formal **True- avoid contractions and include technical vocabulary.**
- They should never include your own opinion **False- you can include an opinion in your conclusion.**

**Can I introduce an argument
in a discussion text?**

Introducing an argument

Here are three ways to introduce an argument:

- say whose opinion it is
- use a word/phrase to disagree with an argument
- use a word/phrase to agree with an argument

Say whose opinion it is

Start by naming the person, people or group who believe that argument:

Experts say...

Children believe...

Scientists have proven...

Adults argue...

Teachers believe...

Say whose opinion it is

Experts say that reducing your carbon footprint could save the planet.

Children believe school is a fun place: they learn exciting things and get to make friends.

Scientists have proven that school uniform has a positive impact on learning.

Adults argue that children should go to school until the age of eighteen.

Teachers believe they have the best jobs in the world.

Use a word/phrase to disagree with an argument

Show a contrasting argument to balance your discussion text:

However,

On the other hand,

In contrast,

Others disagree..

Use a word/phrase to disagree with an argument

Most teachers believe school uniform helps pupils focus on their learning. **However**, some teachers argue that school uniform limits creativity.

Teenagers argue that they should be allowed to vote from the age of sixteen. **On the other hand**, many adults argue that sixteen year olds are not mature enough to make important decisions.

Use a word/phrase to agree with an argument

You may want to make an argument stronger by saying who agrees with it or by adding more detail to it:

Scientists agree...

Many people support this argument...

Furthermore,

In addition,

Use a word/phrase to agree with an argument

Scientists agree with this statement: they say that school uniforms have a positive impact on SATs results.

Many people support this argument, such as teachers who argue that school uniforms help keep pupils calm in school.

Furthermore, allowing younger people to vote could encourage children to be more responsible.

In addition, reducing your carbon footprint may result in a safer planet for future generations.

Depending on how confident you feel, choose one of the activities below:

Red

Use the word bank to complete the extract below.

A group of children at	Children	However	Furthermore
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_____ say that school uniforms are boring. _____, teachers disagree because school uniforms help to create a calm atmosphere in school. _____, studies show that schools with a strict uniform policy have better test results. Despite the differences in opinions, most schools in the United Kingdom have a compulsory school uniform.

_____ Monkwick Junior School are starting a petition to bring to the headteacher: they believe enough signatures could persuade teachers at the school to change their policy on school uniforms.

Yellow

Choose a word or phrase that introduces an argument to complete the extract below:

_____ say that school uniforms are boring. _____, teachers disagree because school uniforms help to create a calm atmosphere in school. _____, studies show that schools with a strict uniform policy have better test results. Despite the differences in opinions, most schools in the United Kingdom have a compulsory school uniform.

_____ Monkwick Junior School are starting a petition to bring to the headteacher: they believe enough signatures could persuade teachers at the school to change their policy on school uniforms.

Green

Put the points below into a paragraph about school uniforms. Use the words/phrases from our lesson to introduce the arguments. You can add arguments of your own and change the wording of those given to you.

(Challenge: can you include a semicolon and modal verbs?)

- School uniforms are boring.
- Schools with a uniform policy have better results.
- School uniforms make schools calmer.
- A petition could persuade teachers to change their minds.