

## A Guide to Writing a Discussion/Balanced Argument

A discussion/balanced argument should show both sides of an argument.

A discussion/balanced argument should include:

- ✓ A title
- ✓ An interesting opening statement about the issue that you are going to discuss.
- ✓ A two sided (mainly unbiased) argument
- ✓ The argument FOR supported by evidence/examples.
- ✓ The arguments AGAINST supported by evidence/examples.
- ✓ Connectives to link one side of the argument e.g. therefore, furthermore, also, in addition to this.
- ✓ Connectives to move to giving the other side of the argument e.g. however, on the other hand, although.
- ✓ Write a conclusion at the end to finish your writing. In this you could sum up the two opposing arguments and make it clear that people continue to disagree, or you could summarise by stating that one side has the stronger argument. (Although this is a way of giving your personal opinion, try not to say 'I think that...'. Instead write something like. 'Although this is a strong argument, overall it seems that the benefits of owning a mobile phone outweigh the risks. The convenience and reassurance provided to parents make them a popular and valuable gadget to invest in.')

Remember to think of a lot and lots of arguments for both sides and keep it balanced. Don't write 5 paragraphs for one side of the argument and then two lines on the other.

You can either write all your arguments for, followed by all your arguments against, or an argument for, followed by an argument against. If you use the second structure you should try to make the points linked e.g. In a discussion about mobile phones, if a paragraph was on ways in which they make you safer, the next paragraph could be on ways in which they may be seen as dangerous.