



**Argument Led Essay Writing**

- Essay writing is something that you may have to do at university or when taking an English exam such as the IELTS exam.
- There are different kinds of essay. Two examples are the *thesis led essay* and the *argument led essay*.
- In an argument led essay, you have to write about the advantages and disadvantages of something.
- An essay like this is usually at least 200 words long. In fact, writing task 2 of the IELTS exam requires that you write at least 250 words in 40 minutes.
- Essays almost always have 3 parts which appear in the following order:
  1. **The introduction** - This part informs the reader of the essay's topic. It is relatively brief.
  2. **The body** - In an argument led essay, this consists of an advantages paragraph and a disadvantages paragraph. This is the longest and most important part.
  3. **The conclusion** - Summarising what you said before is a good way to conclude. It may be necessary to include your personal opinion. The conclusion is also quite brief.

**2) Read the statements above about argument led essay writing. Then, answer "true" or "false" for each question.**

<b>1.</b> Essay writing is only required for university.	<b>False</b>
<b>2.</b> There is more than one type of essay.	<b>True</b>
<b>3.</b> You write about the good and bad aspects of something in an argument led essay.	<b>True</b>
<b>4.</b> You need to write at least 200 words in writing task 2 of the IELTS exam.	<b>False</b>
<b>5.</b> An argument led essay has less than 3 parts.	<b>False</b>
<b>6.</b> The introduction is the first part and lets the reader know what the essay is about.	<b>True</b>
<b>7.</b> The second part, also known as "the body", is the part where you write the most.	<b>True</b>
<b>8.</b> In the body, the advantages and disadvantages of something are written in a single paragraph.	<b>False</b>
<b>9.</b> The last part, also known as "the conclusion", can be a summary.	<b>True</b>
<b>10.</b> You never include your own opinion in an argument led essay.	<b>False</b>

**Essay Task A**

Technology is continually developing and has become part of people's everyday lives. Nowadays, technology helps people perform almost every kind of task.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this and give your own opinion.

*Write at least 200 words*

**Essay Task B**

Technology is part of our modern world and affects everything we do. The sad truth is that we are now so dependent on technology that we cannot live without it.

Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

*Write at least 200 words*

If you are given an essay task like this, you should write an argument led essay.

However, if you are given an essay task like this, you should not write an argument led essay.

**"Essay tasks", such as those above, let you know what you have to write about. It's important to read them carefully before planning and writing your essay.**

**3) With your group, answer the girl's questions below.**

How do I know that *essay task A* is for an argument led essay?

**Answer:**  
"Discuss the advantages and disadvantages".

**Answer:**  
Technology

What is the topic of this argument led essay?  
(Essay task A)

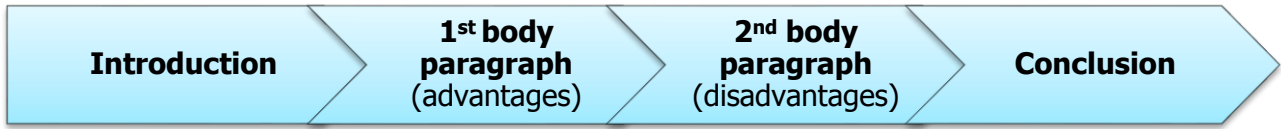
How do I know that *essay task B* is not for an argument led essay?

**Answer:**  
"Do you agree or disagree".

**Answer:**  
1) Discuss advantages.  
2) Discuss disadvantages.  
3) Give own opinion.

What are the 3 things that I must do in this argument led essay?  
(Essay task A)

**Argument led essay structure**



**4a) If an essay is 200 words total, how long should the *introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion* be? Look below and choose the best essay.**

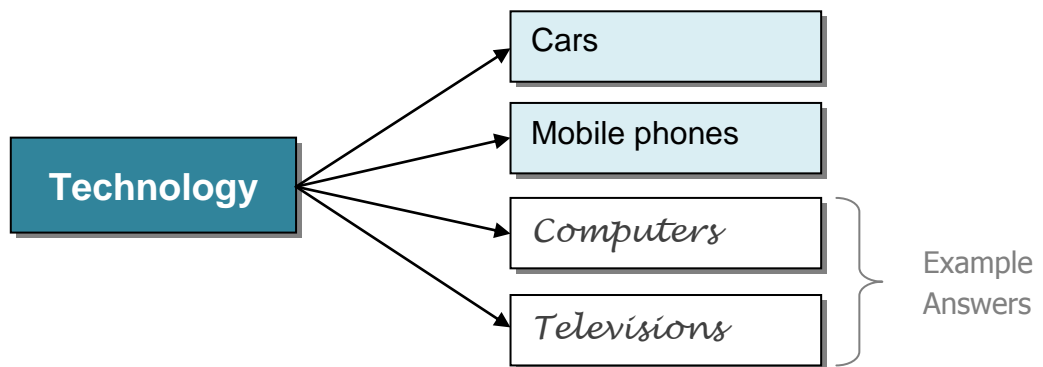
- The best essay is → A / B / C

<p><b>A</b></p> <p>Advantages →</p> <p>Disadvantages →</p>	<p>[Placeholder text for Essay A]</p>	<p>Introduction (about 70 words)</p> <p>Body - 2 paragraphs (About 30 words x 2)</p> <p>Conclusion (about 70 words)</p>	
<p><b>B</b></p> <p>Advantages →</p> <p>Disadvantages →</p>	<p>[Placeholder text for Essay B]</p>	<p>Introduction (about 50 words)</p> <p>Body - 2 paragraphs (About 50 words x 2)</p> <p>Conclusion (about 50 words)</p>	
<p><b>C</b></p> <p>Advantages →</p> <p>Disadvantages →</p>	<p>[Placeholder text for Essay C]</p>	<p>Introduction (about 40 words)</p> <p>Body - 2 paragraphs (About 60 words x 2)</p> <p>Conclusion (about 40 words)</p>	

**4b) Discuss with your group – When doing writing task 2 of the IELTS exam, about how many words should be in each section? (Intro. ≈ 50, Body ≈ 150, Conc. ≈ 50)**



5a) With your partner, think of 2 more examples of "technology".



5b) Complete the table below.

Topic: Technology	
Examples of technology being good ☺ (Advantages)	Examples of technology being bad ☹ (Disadvantages)
<p><b>Cars</b> → Travelling by car is faster than walking so we save time, especially for longer journeys.</p> <p><b>Mobile phones</b> → <i>Mobiles phones allow us to communicate with friends and family even when they are far away.</i></p>	<p><b>Cars</b> → Cars reduce the amount of exercise we get, especially if we use them for short journeys.</p> <p><b>Mobile phones</b> → <i>Using your mobile phone while driving can be very dangerous.</i></p>

**Essay Task**

Technology is continually developing and has become part of people's everyday lives. Nowadays, technology helps people perform almost every kind of task.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this and give your own opinion.

*Write at least 200 words.*

- 6) An essay has been written for the above essay task. You teacher will give you the essay in pieces. Put these pieces back in the correct order. (See page 7)
- 7) Below are some key phrases that you can use when you write your argument led essay. Find each phrase in the essay on page 7 and then circle it. (See page 7)

*In short, ...*

*In this essay, I will ...*

*In my opinion, ...*

*There are several advantages to ...*

*There are also a number of disadvantages to ...*

- 8) Look at the essay on page 7 and then discuss these questions with your group:
- Does the writer use "block paragraphing" or "indent paragraphing"? (Block)
  - In your view, which style of paragraphing is better? (Either is acceptable, but *block* is more modern)

**Block paragraphing**

essay. I will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using technology.

No indent → The good thing with technology is that it helps people to live better lives and makes the world a better place. For example, cars allow you to travel

Blank line between paragraphs

**Indent paragraphing**

essay. I will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using technology.

Indent → The good thing with technology is that it helps people to live better lives and makes the world a better place. For example, cars allow

No blank line between paragraphs

**Example Essay**

(For questions 7 and 8)

*People have been creating and using technology for thousands of years. Just about every person uses some kind of technology every day. In this essay, I will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using technology.*

*There are several advantages to using technology. For example, cars allow us to travel long distances quickly and efficiently. Communication has also benefited from technological advances. By using the internet and mobile phones, we are now able to contact our friends and family easily even when we are in a different country. The benefits of technology make our lives easier on the whole.*

*There are also a number of disadvantages to using technology. For instance, when travelling very short distances, some people still opt to drive rather than walk or ride a bicycle which results in reduced health and fitness. Technology can also be dangerous. Using a mobile phone while driving can result in injury or even death. When overused, technology has clear drawbacks.*

*In short, it is clear that technology provides a lot of benefits. However, this is only true when technology is used properly. In my opinion, technology is definitely a good thing but we should use it only when it is really necessary.*

Introduction - 35 words, body - 124 words total, conclusion - 42 words.

Essay total - 201 words

<b>Argument Led Essay Checklist</b> For the 200 word practice essay <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Part</b>	<b>Checklist</b>	<b>Done ?</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	The introduction begins with a general statement (such as a fact) that introduces the topic.	
	The second part of the introduction states that the essay will consider both sides of the argument (e.g. advantages <u>and</u> disadvantages).	
	The introduction is approximately 40 words long overall.	
<b>Body</b>	Advantages and disadvantages <sup>2</sup> are considered in separate paragraphs.	
	The advantages <sup>2</sup> paragraph contains 2 or 3 specific examples.	
	The disadvantages <sup>2</sup> paragraph contains 2 or 3 specific examples.	
	The body is approximately 120 words long overall.	
<b>Conclusion</b>	The conclusion summarises the body.	
	The conclusion ends with the writers own opinion. <sup>3</sup>	
	The conclusion is approximately 40 words long overall.	
<b>General</b>	<i>Block paragraphing</i> or <i>indent paragraphing</i> is used to show new paragraphs.	
	Handwriting is easy to read.	
	Overall, ideas are communicated clearly.	

<sup>1</sup> Remember that when doing the IELTS exam, task 2 of the writing part requires that you write at least 250 words in 40 minutes.

<sup>2</sup> The real IELTS exam may use different words to refer to "advantages" and "disadvantages", such as "pros" and "cons".

<sup>3</sup> In the IELTS exam, only offer your own opinion if the task asks for it.