## How to write an argumentative or opinion paragraph

Prepared by Ms Gihan Ismail

# Writing an argumentative or opinion statement paragraph is not a difficult task as long as You

don't panic



plan your writing well



# Step-by-step guide Read question and underline key words

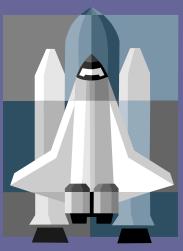
- Read the instructions of the writing task well and decide on KEY vocabulary.
- Write words of the same or related meanings to these vocabulary words.



#### Example

Should governments spend money on space exploration, or should they spend the money on problems here first?

- Governments = nations, countries, authorities, politicians
- Spend = allocate, give, allot, provide, budget, make available, waste, award
- Space exploration = space program, trips to the moon, the international space station, planets, planetary voyages
- Money = budgets, taxes, resources,
- Problems = concerns, issues, worries, disasters, threats, threatening, war, famine, poverty, education, homelessness, drugs, global warming
- Here = on earth, in our own countries, closer to home, in developing countries, foreign aid,



#### Step-by-step guide Get ideas

- Decide if you are 'for' or 'against' the idea.
- Brainstorm ideas to support your opinion.
- Eliminate the insignificant ones and keep the key issues.
- Be quick and stay focused.



### Step-by-step guide Decide on a layout

- Usually it is best to express your opinion at the beginning of the paragraph; in the topic sentence.
- Writing a paragraph, it is better to adopt one opinion as you do not have time or space to discuss both sides.
- In an essay, it is best to express both sides, each in a separate paragraph, with an introduction of the topic and a conclusion of the summary of your opinion.



#### Paragraph layout

- Side 1 ———————————————————————2 sentences
- Support 3 sentences
- Side 2
   2 sentences
- Support 3 sentences
- Concluding 1 to 2 sentences sentence

Total ..... 12 to 14 sentences

### Step-by-step guide Write your paragraph

- After deciding on ideas, start WRITING!
- Write a paragraph the same order you could follow when writing an essay.



### Easy steps to write a good Introduction

One easy way to write the introduction for an argument or opinion paragraph is

- 1. One sentence 'for' the topic
- 2. One sentence 'against' the topic
- 3. One thesis statement about what you are going to do in the paragraph.

# Show me how, please.

	Does space exploration benefit mankind?
Sentence 'for'	Many people are excited about space exploration.
Sentence 'against'	However, others feel it is a massive waste of money
'Thesis' sentence	This paragraph will look at some of the arguments for and against space exploration.

### Easy steps to write a good Conclusion

What is a good conclusion?

- 1. It is the end of the essay.
- 2. It is the last part of the essay.
- 3. It is the part that the reader may remember most.
- 4. It should be clear and avoid confusing the reader.

A good conclusion will.....

• rephrase the question

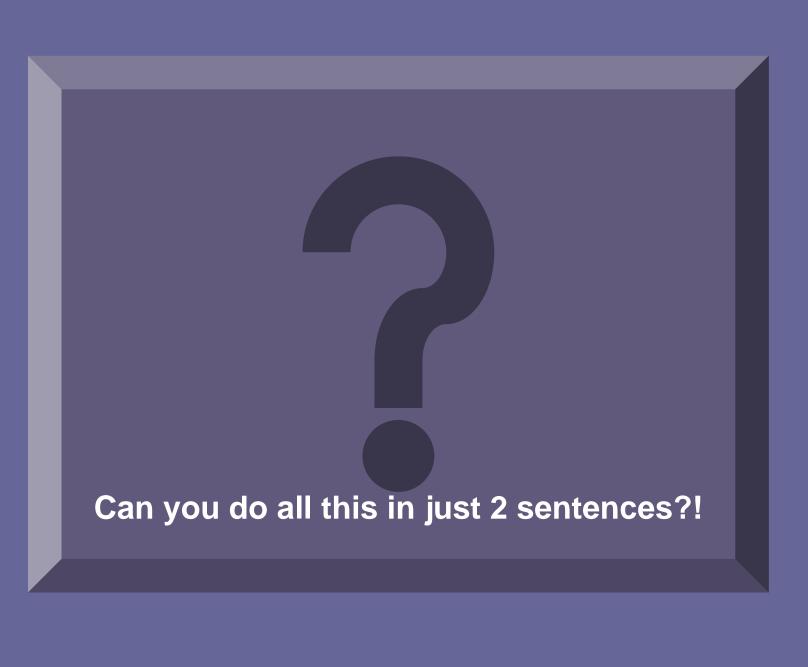
summarize the main ideas

• give your opinion, if you haven't given it already

• look to the future (say what will happen if the situation continues or changes)

but will.....

NEVER add new information





### How can you do this?

Ask the experts.....

**TEACHERS** 



#### 

- The conclusion is very similar to the introduction.
- You should avoid repeating the same words over and over again.
- Use related words or synonyms of the question and the introduction.

### What is so common between the introduction and the conclusion?

Your intro and conclusion wrap around your essay like a piece of bright paper "wraps" a present.

They are not the main part of the essay, but they do make your essay look good.



### Example

#### Should dangerous sports be banned?

In summary, our society would be healthier if more people took part in sports of all kinds. We should continue to try to prevent accidents and injuries. However, we should also ensure that sports are challenging, exciting, and, above all, fun.

