

Discussion Text Planner: Should we have a longer school day?

Learning objective: To structure a balanced discussion text by presenting arguments for and against a specific topic, using formal language and conjunctions.

Use this template to organise your ideas for a discussion text. Remember to present both sides of the argument fairly before writing your own conclusion. Max, our maths-loving monkey, suggests using a table to keep your points balanced, while Pip the bookworm reminds you to use linking words like 'furthermore', 'however', and 'consequently'.

Word bank: Furthermore · However · In contrast · On the other hand · Consequently · Evidence · Perspective · Balanced view

1. Introduction: State the topic clearly and explain why it is a subject of debate today. (2 marks)

2. Arguments For: List at least two strong reasons why some people believe a longer school day is a good idea. (3 marks)

3. Arguments Against: List at least two strong reasons why some people believe a longer school day is a bad idea. (3 marks)

4. Conclusion: Summarise the main points and provide your own balanced final thought or recommendation. (2 marks)

5. Vocabulary Check: Choose three formal words from the word bank and write a sentence for each that you could use in your final draft. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Draft a short paragraph using your notes above. Try to include a 'rhetorical question' to engage your reader and use at least two fronted adverbials to improve your sentence flow.