

Mastering Discussion Texts: The Debate Toolkit

Learning objective: To understand the structural and linguistic features of a formal discussion text, evaluating balanced arguments and cohesive devices.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of discussion texts. Read the term on the left, then check your understanding against the definition provided after the vertical bar.

Balanced Argument	Thesis Statement
A piece of writing that explores multiple viewpoints on a topic without showing bias towards one side.	The opening sentence or paragraph that introduces the issue and explains why it is a subject of current debate.
Cohesive Devices	Counter-argument
Words or phrases that link ideas together, such as 'furthermore', 'conversely', or 'on the other hand'.	An opposing viewpoint that addresses the other side of the issue to ensure the discussion remains fair.
Objective Language	Modal Verbs
Writing that focuses on facts and evidence rather than personal feelings or opinions.	Words like 'might', 'could', or 'should' used to express possibility or obligation when discussing potential outcomes.
Formal Tone	Conjunctions
A serious and professional style of writing, avoiding slang, contractions, and emotive language.	Connecting words like 'however', 'although', and 'similarly' used to contrast or compare different points.
Perspective	Conclusion
A particular attitude or way of regarding an issue; a viewpoint held by a specific group of people.	The final paragraph that summarises the main points and offers a final, neutral overview of the debate.