

Mastering Discussion Texts with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To identify the key features, structure, and formal language required to write a balanced discussion text.

Read each card to learn about the structure of a discussion text. Use these definitions to help you plan your own balanced argument.

What is the primary purpose of a discussion text?

To present a balanced view of an issue by exploring different points of view before reaching a conclusion.

What should the introduction of a discussion text include?

A clear statement of the topic and an explanation that there are different perspectives to consider.

What is a 'balanced view'?

Exploring both the advantages (pros) and the disadvantages (cons) of a topic without being biased towards one side.

Why do we use formal language in a discussion text?

To sound professional, objective, and serious, rather than using slang or informal personal opinions.

What is a counter-argument?

A point that challenges or disagrees with the previous argument, helping to show the other side of the debate.

Give an example of a formal conjunction used to contrast points.

However, conversely, on the other hand, or alternatively.

Give an example of a formal conjunction used to add points.

Furthermore, in addition, moreover, or additionally.

What is the purpose of the conclusion in a discussion text?

To summarise the main points discussed and provide a final thought or a balanced summary of the issue.

Should you use 'I think' or 'I feel' in a formal discussion text?

No, you should remain objective and use third-person language to keep the tone neutral.

What are 'prepositional phrases' of time and place?

Phrases like 'In the current climate' or 'Across the country' that help to organize the discussion.

Pip the Bookworm says a good discussion text needs 'evidence'. What does this mean?

Including facts, statistics, or expert opinions to support the different arguments being presented.