

# Discussions

## What are discussions and why do we write them?

Discussions are written to explore arguments for and against a particular issue or topic.

## What are the different types of discussion texts?

1. Analysis: The writer concludes by summarising both points of view.
2. Evaluation: The writer concludes by giving his/her personal opinion and/or recommendations.

## What structure is needed in a discussion?

### A discussion includes:

- a statement of issue;
- arguments for and against with supporting evidence;
- a summary and/or recommendations.

## What are the main language features?

### Language of opinion

Feeling verbs, for example: It is suggested that when riding a bike, you wear a helmet.

Adverbs, for example: Surely, riding on the road is dangerous without a helmet.

### Language of comparison/contrast

- Contrastive conjunctions, for example: Boys normally have short hair whereas girls usually have long hair.

### Language of cause/effect

- Purpose, for example: Helmets should be worn so that children....
- Reason, for example: Now, that new rules have been introduced by the government ...
- Results, for example: Therefore, it is crucial that children...
- Causative verbs, for example: The pollution in our environment is caused by...

**Language to indicate sequence**, for example: **In conclusion**, I support the viewpoint.

**Language of modality**, for example: We **strongly** and **without a doubt** agree with the viewpoint.

## What other features are there?

### Technical language

This language is written specifically to relate to the topic, for example: dinosaurs, Jurassic, prehistoric, habitat, etc.

### Timeless present tense

The timeless present is the main tense used in expositions. However, other tenses may be used when necessary. When presenting background information, the past tense could be used. Alternatively, to make proposals for change, you may refer to the future tense.

## What skills are needed and developed when writing discussions?

Researching, surveying, taking notes, summarising, debating and interviewing.