

The DISCUSS ESSAY Starter Pack

Part 1

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1) The Type of Essay

A Discuss Essay is a piece of writing that gives **two equal opinions** about a topic. Usually it is a positive and negative view.

Look at these examples:

- Watching television can be *both negative and positive*. Discuss.
- Cooking food at home *has advantages and disadvantages*. Compare these views.

**IELTS QUESTION: How do you know it is a Discuss Essay?*

Look at the following table of words. These tell you the IELTS Question is a Discuss Essay:

Topic	View 1 (+)	View 2 (-)	Question Word
Studying online has	Advantages	disadvantages	Discuss
Doing sport has	benefits	drawbacks	Compare these views
Living in the city is	positive	negative	Evaluate this statement
Being vegetarian is the best way to live	Some people agree	Others disagree	Examine both opinions

2) The Structure

A typical or usual Discuss Essay has about 25 sentences in it. So, if you write about 10 words per sentence or more you should reach the IELTS 250 words.

Introduction

Sentence 1 – Background Sentence

Sentence 2 – Question Sentence

Sentence 3 – Purpose Sentence

Body 1

Sentence 4 – Topic Sentence Positive Idea 1

Sentence 5 – Support Sentence

Sentence 6 – Support Sentence

Sentence 7 – Summary Sentence

Sentence 8 – Topic Sentence Positive Idea 2

Sentence 9 – Support Sentence

Sentence 10 – Support Sentence

Sentence 11 – Summary Sentence

Sentence 12 - Overall Summary Sentence

Body 2

Sentence 13 – Topic Sentence Positive Idea

Sentence 14 – Support Sentence

Sentence 15 – Support Sentence

Sentence 16 – Summary Sentence

Sentence 17 – Topic Sentence Positive Idea

Sentence 18 – Support Sentence

Sentence 19– Support Sentence

Sentence 20 – Summary Sentence

Sentence 21 - Overall Summary Sentence

Conclusion

Sentence 22 – Achievement Sentence

Sentence 23 – Positive Summary Sentence

Sentence 24 – Negative Summary Sentence

Sentence 25 – (Own Opinion Sentence)

Sentence 26 – Final Thoughts Sentence

3) The Sentences

Welcome to **Part 1** of this IELTS Discuss Starter Pack. Here, we will look at **sentences 1-3 of the Introduction** and answer **four important questions** as you learn how to build your very own sentences:

Q 1 – *Why* are you writing this sentence?

Q 2 – *How many* different parts are there to this sentence?

Q 3 - *What* words can I use to build this sentence?

Q 4 – *How* will this sentence improve my score?

4) The Example IELTS Question

We are going to use the following example IELTS Writing Task 2 Discuss Question to help you begin to build your sentences.

Watching television today has positives and negatives. Discuss.

Write at least 250 words to explain your answer.

5) The IELTS Marking Criteria

Each sentence you write in an IELTS essay will be marked against criteria. So it is important to know how building your sentences will help to meet these criteria. The following table shows what these criteria are and what they mean for you as a writer of a DISCUSS ESSAY.

Task Response	Coherence	Cohesion	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range	Grammatical accuracy
Written at least 250 words	Clear Main Ideas	Logical Order	Topic specific vocabulary	Long and short sentences	No tense or subject mistakes
Discussed both advantages and disadvantages	Clear Support Sentences	Linking words	Good IELTS level vocabulary	Different tenses, the passive etc...	Sentence word order good
You have answered all parts of the IELTS question and used the correct structure	Your writing makes sense	Your sentences follow in a logical order	Your vocabulary and spelling is good	Your writing shows you know how to use the different parts of English Grammar	Your writing has very few grammatical mistakes

Sentence 1 – The Background Sentence

Q1: *This sentence introduces the general topic and says how important it is*

Q2: *There are 6 parts to this sentence*

Q3: *Here are some of the words you can use in each part*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Place	Time	Topic	Change	Important	People		
All over the world	nowadays	the media	has become	an important	part of people's lives		

Building Notes – Q4 How will this sentence improve my score?

Why do you write this sentence again?

You write a **background sentence** to introduce your reader to the general topic that you are going to discuss and to say that this is important.

How do you write this sentence?

1) Place

Saying where this topic is discussed makes it important. If it is discussed **all over the world**, it must be important!

IELTS Marking Criteria – Lexical Resource (vocabulary)

2) Time

Emphasise that the topic you are writing about is concerned with life NOW. That is why it is important. You are not talking about the Past, you are talking about the situation today.

IELTS Marking Criteria – Cohesion (structure)

3) Topic

Try to think of the General topic for the question. This question is about television, so the General topic could be the Media or Communication.

IELTS Marking Criteria – Cohesion and Question

4) Change

Using *has become/developed into (present perfect simple)* suggests that the topic has increased in importance from the past until now.

IELTS Marking Criteria – Grammar (Range of tenses)

5) Important

Say the topic you are talking about is important, but maybe show that you know another word which means this.

IELTS Marking Criteria – Lexical Resource and Question

6) People

Say that this topic affects people or a group of people.

IELTS Marking Criteria - Cohesion

Building The Essay

All over the world nowadays, the media has become an important part of everybody's lives.

Sentence 2 – The Question Sentence

Q1: This sentence repeats the IELTS opinion

Q2: There are 5 parts to this sentence

Q3: Here are some of the words you can use in each part

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Passive	Topic	Question Type	View 1	View 2			
It is stated that	watching TV	has two sides	a positive one	and a negative one			

Building Notes – Q4 How will this sentence improve my score?

Why do you write this sentence again?

You write a **question sentence** to explain to the reader, because they cannot see the question, what topic and opinion you are going to write about in your essay.

You write a **question sentence** to make it clear what starting point you are beginning the essay from.

How do you write this sentence?

1) The Passive (it + be + past participle)

Begin to introduce the main view or views in the IELTS question in this part. Remember at this point, this is not going to introduce your view; it is the question's view and that is why it is good to use the passive here.

IELTS Marking Criteria – Cohesion and Grammar (passive makes it more academic)

2) Topic

Repeating the topic in the question allows the writer to paraphrase (use different words).

IELTS Marking Criteria – Lexical Resource

3) Question Type

Emphasise what structure you are using to answer the question, as well as saying what essay type the IELTS question is.

IELTS Marking Criteria – Cohesion and Question

4) View 1

This part shows how you are going to structure your essay: what you will write in body 1.

IELTS Marking Criteria – Cohesion, Question and Lexical Resource

5) View 2

This part also shows how you are going to structure your essay: what you will write in body 2.

IELTS Marking Criteria - Cohesion, Question and Lexical Resource

Building the Essay

All over the world nowadays, the media has become an important part of everybody's lives. **It is stated that watching TV has two sides: a positive one and a negative one.**

Sentence 3 – The Purpose Sentence

Q1: This sentence says what you are going to write about in the main body of the essay

Q2: There are 6 parts to this sentence

Q3: Here are some of the words you can use in each part

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Why	Essay	Time	Discuss	Views	Support		
The purpose	of this essay	is to now	discuss	both viewpoints	and give relevant support		

Building Notes – Q4 How will this sentence improve my score?

Why do you write this sentence again?

You write a **purpose sentence** to explain to the reader what you will write in the main body of the essay.

How do you write this sentence?

1) Why

Now that you have said what the IELTS question is, begin to say what you are going to do in the main body of the essay. These words tell the reader this focus.

IELTS Marking Criteria – Cohesion and Lexical Resource

2) Essay

Confirm that what you are writing is an essay and not a report (Writing Task 1)

IELTS Marking Criteria – Cohesion

3) Time

This stresses that the essay you are writing is starting now and is preparing the reader for your examination of the views. Using *is to*, the infinitive, also emphasises the purpose.

IELTS Marking Criteria – Cohesion and Grammar

4) Discuss

Your choice of word here shows that you will look at both opinions in detail.

IELTS Marking Criteria – Coherence, Question and Lexical Resource

5) Views

This part states that you will discuss both views equally.

IELTS Marking Criteria - Coherence, Question and Lexical Resource

6) Support

Your choice of word here informs the reader that you will strengthen the idea.

IELTS Marking Criteria – Cohesion and Question

Building the Essay

All over the world nowadays, the media has become an important part of everybody's lives. It is stated that watching TV has two sides: a positive one and a negative one. **The purpose of this essay is to now discuss both viewpoints and give relevant support.**

Congratulations, you have written 3 sentences of a DISCUSS ESSAY. You have written the INTRODUCTION.

You ONLY have 22 more SENTENCES to write.

So, here is how to complete your IELTS DISCUSS ESSAY:

- Buy and Download Discuss Starter Pack Part 2
- Buy and Download Discuss Starter Pack Part 3
- Buy and Download Discuss Starter Pack Part 4

And why not improve your INTRODUCTION sentence writing skills by buying and downloading these too:

- The Background Sentence Extension Pack
- The Question Sentence Extension Pack
- The Purpose Sentence Extension Pack

Good Luck with your IELTS Writing

Chris