

# Writing an Essay

IGCSE English ■ Topic 8

IGCSE English



## What we will cover

- 1 Discursive vs argumentative
- 2 Planning
- 3 Essay structure
- 4 Body paragraphs



1

**Approach**

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## Two kinds of essay

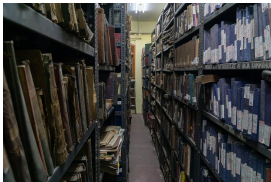
### discursive 论述的

look at **both** sides – for and against, then perhaps your view

### argumentative 议论的

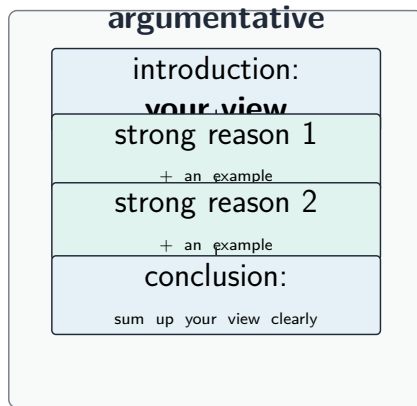
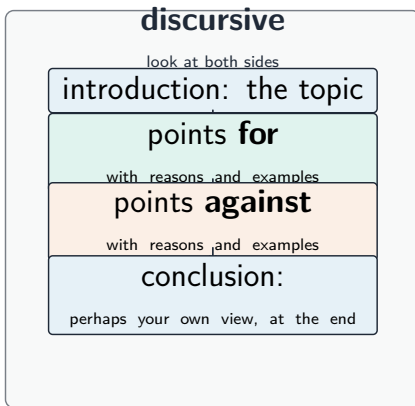
argue for **one** view with strong reasons & examples

**Plan** 计划 first: decide your points & reasons before you write.



*Close reading needs quiet attention*

# Two kinds of essay



plan first: decide your main points before you write

# Essay structure

- **introduction** 引言 – name the topic (2–3 sentences)
- **body** 主体 – one main idea per paragraph
- **conclusion** 结论 – sum up; **no** new point

**Plan** 计划 first: points and reasons before you write.



*Plan clear points, examples, and a firm conclusion*

# Body paragraphs



Start each paragraph with the idea, then back it with reasons & examples.

## Body paragraphs

one body paragraph

Firstly, school sport builds real friend-

Playing in a team means you win and lose together, so

For example, my closest friends are the players I have trained with every week since Grade 8.

— **start with the idea**

— (a topic sentence)

— then the **reasons**

— behind it

— then an **example**

— that makes it real

2

Recap

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## Worked example – an essay paragraph

**Write a body paragraph arguing that students should wear uniform, and handle the other side.**

- **Point:** “Uniform reduces the pressure to compete over clothes.”
- **Explain:** “Poorer students are not judged for what they wear, so fewer feel excluded.”
- **Counter:** “Some say it stifles individuality; **however**, students express themselves through what they *do*.”
- **⇒ one idea per paragraph, the other side answered.**

Answering the counter-argument is what lifts a top essay. Signpost it: **however, although, on the other hand**. One paragraph = **one idea**.

## Topic 8 – key takeaways

1

### Two kinds

discursive (both sides) vs  
argumentative (one)

2

### Plan

decide points & reasons first

3

### Structure

introduction, body, conclusion

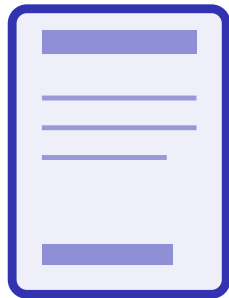
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### Paragraphs

point, then reasons & examples

## Check yourself

- 1 Which essay shows both sides?
- 2 How long should an introduction be?
- 3 How many main ideas per body paragraph?
- 4 Should the conclusion add a new point?



**Answers** 1. a discursive essay 2. short – 2–3 sentences 3. one 4. no