

## Writing an Essay

IGCSE English • Topic 8

IGCSE English



Writing an Essay

### What we will cover

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



# 1 Approach

Writing an Essay

└─ Approach

### Two kinds of essay

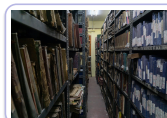
#### discursive 论述的

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*

Writing an Essay

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### 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*

Writing an Essay

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### 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-  
ships. 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

- Put one main idea in each **body** 主体 paragraph.
- Start the paragraph with the idea, then add reasons and examples.

# 2

## Recap

## 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

### 4 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