

Discursive Essay

A discursive essay is a discussion revolving around a debatable issue.

The purpose of a discursive essay is to give a fair discussion to cover both sides of the controversial topic.

It requires:

1. Logical presentation of arguments and counter- arguments.
2. Presentation of arguments in an unbiased manner
3. Opinions for both sides of the controversial topic.
4. No firm stand has to be taken.

How to write a discursive essay

Introduction:

1. Paraphrase the title to show that you understand the question. Explain and define the topic.
2. Give a general background of the topic and brief information about it.
3. Give a thesis statement elaborating your feelings and opinions about the topic. This serves to inform your reader what to expect in the paragraphs that follow. This statement states the purpose of your essay, so your statement should be specific and restrictive. Usually the thesis statement is the last sentence in your first paragraph.

Phrase you may use:

This essay will explore /discuss ...

Body Paragraphs:

Three paragraphs – each paragraph contains one topic or main idea to support your thesis statement. This statement is usually the first sentence of the paragraph. Develop your topic sentence with explanation, evidence, statistics, facts, etc.

Phrases you may use:

1. One of the most significant reasons for/against
 2. One reason in support of/against ...
 3. Another reason behind the ...
 4. Yet another reason ...
 5. An equally important reason ...
 6. This leads us to another concern ...
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1. It is essential/imperative/pivotal/necessary/indispensable that ...
 2. It stands to reason
 3. For example,
 4. Furthermore,

5. Additionally,
6. There is every chance/possibility likelihood
7. Inevitably,
8. It is virtually certain
9. There is a slim chance that

Conclusion:

The conclusion rounds up the overall essence of your essay.

Reinforce your thesis statement by rephrasing it. Avoid repeating thesis statement you use in the first paragraph. Do not introduce new topic in your conclusion.

Phrases you may use:

1. To encapsulate
2. All in all,
3. In conclusion
4. ... can be a double-edged sword
5. Separate the wheat from the chaff
6. ... is not a black-and-white issue
7. Beneficial/detrimental
8. Boon/bane
9. Blessing/curse
10. Pros and cons

Note:

1. Use connectors and linking words
2. Use formal language
3. Write in logical sequence