

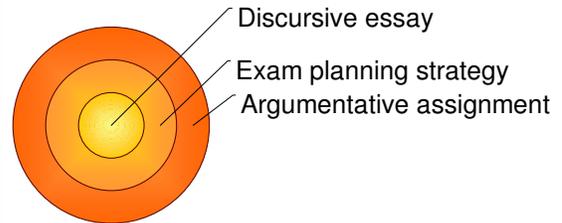


## Creative Writing Under Pressure

A presentation by James Abela

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## Contents



## Argumentative essays

Particularly useful for IELTS & pre-university entry exams.

## Argumentative – Opinion

Let's make students clean the toilets...

- Do you agree?
- Does anybody else think the same as you?
- Why do you think that?
- Can you understand the other side?
- Why are they wrong?

## Argumentative – Order

Let's make students clean the toilets...

- Introduce topic - agree / disagree
  - Tell us why – ideas and examples
  - Different opinions – not important or not true
  - Brief summary
- STRONG LAST SENTENCE**

## If you remember 1 sentence!

- "I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have." *Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)*
- "To accomplish great things we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe." *Anatole*
- "Persistence is the twin sister of excellence. One is a matter of quality; the other, a matter of time." *Marabel Morgan*
- "There are two levers for moving men -- interest and fear." *Napoleon Bonaparte 1769-1821, French General, Emperor*

## Building an Argument



Smoking should be banned from public places

## Building an Argument

Smoking should be banned from public places

Smoking is dirty.

Leave ash

Leave cigarette butts

Smells bad

Causes irritation to the eyes

## Building an Argument

Smoking should be banned from public places

Smoking is dangerous

Careless smokers cause fires

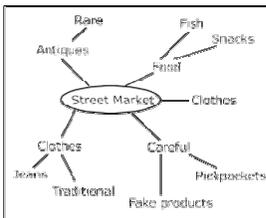
causes throat & lung cancer

Causes heart disease

## Vocabulary

- First point - First of all / To begin with / To start with
- Connect points – And / Also / Furthermore / What's more / As well
- Change sides – On the other hand / conversely / But / That said
- Conclude - In conclusion / Therefore
- Examples - For example / For instance

## Quick Planning - Mindmaps



- Wide range of uses: from Internet site design to brainstorming in meetings
- Generate ideas about 30% faster

## Steps to planning!

- Draw a Mindmap as fast as possible
- Select 3-5 ideas (In an exam, just choose by instinct)
- Each of those ideas can then be made into a paragraph
- Once complete – reread your work
- Write a conclusion...
- Check grammar and spelling

## Discursive Essays



After you've reached university!

## Discursive – Why?

- Used in Universities
- Academic Writing

Therefore:

- Strict Format rules
- Logical NOT emotional

## Discursive – Formal Writing

- Don't use Contractions
- No slang, mate...
- When in Rome do as the Romans Do (NO IDIOMS)
- We don't use personal Pronouns.
- No Titles (See Above)
- I think you shouldn't have any opinion

## Discursive – Formal Writing

- Don't use Contractions
- No slang, mate...
- When in Rome do as the Romans Do (NO IDIOMS)
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- No Titles (See Above)
- I think you shouldn't have any opinion

## Discursive Essay - Order

- Rephrase the quote/question in your own FORMAL words. Perhaps you can see what issues lie behind it. (1 paragraph max)
- Evidence that agrees
- Evidence that disagrees
- Implications or consequences
- Conclusion (Allowed some opinion here)

Should students choose Teachers?

## Weighing an Argument

Weighing: On the one hand    On the other hand

### Pros

- Some teachers would work harder.
- Some teachers would prepare more for class.
- Some bad teachers wouldn't get chosen.
- Try to make their class more interesting.

### Cons

- Give every student good grades.
- Choose teachers they like, not good teachers.
- Teachers might teach what is interesting and not what is important.

## Planning It...

For

Against

## Discursive – How to ACE it

- **Accurate**  
Language and evidence
- **Clear**
- **Economical**  
(Don't try to make your essay appear longer by repeating etc.)

## Conclusion

- Argumentative – Be Honest!
- Build an argument with examples
- Quick Planning Method – Mindmaps
- Discursive – Very formal, must be seen to be balanced.
- Plan it with Vs brainstorming
- ACE it!