

Discussion

Social purpose

Discussions are used to look at an issue from a range of perspectives, before making a judgement or recommendation.

Structure

- Identification—provides a context for the discussion by introducing the issue and giving any relevant background information; may preview in a general way, the different points of view
- Arguments for and against—paragraphs used to present arguments for both sides
- Conclusion/recommendation—sums up both sides and makes a recommendation favouring one side.

Key grammatical features

- Use of nominalisation to name issues, arguments, reasons, advantages, disadvantages, etc.
- Use of adjectivals to condense information into the noun groups
- Use of a wide variety of text connectives to introduce and link arguments logically
- Thinking (sensing) verbs to express opinion in a straightforward, explicit way; interpersonal metaphor used to express opinion in a less straightforward, implicit way
- Varying degrees of modality to temper arguments and express opinion
- Use of dependent (concessive) clauses to acknowledge and weaken evidence of opposing argument
- Use of Judgement vocabulary to evaluate the behaviour of individuals and groups
- Use of Appreciation vocabulary to assess significance and importance
- Use of synonyms, antonyms and repetition to emphasise arguments.