

WRITING ESSAYS

opening:

It is often said that ... / Many people claim that ...
In this day and age ... / Nowadays ... / These days ...
We live in an age when many of us are ...
... is a hotly-debated topic that often divides opinion.
... is often discussed yet rarely understood.
It goes without saying that ... is one of the most important issues facing us today.
The following essay takes a look at both sides of the argument.

introducing points:

Firstly, let us take a look at ... / To start with, ...
First of all, it is worth considering ...
Secondly, ... Thirdly, ...
Furthermore, ... / In addition, ... / What is more, ... / On top of that, ...
Another point worth noting is ... / Another factor to consider is ...
Lastly, ... / Finally, ... / Last but not least, ...

presenting ideas & giving examples:

When it comes to noun/gerund, ...	According to experts, ...
In terms of noun/gerund, ...	Research has found that ...
With respect to noun/gerund, ...	There are those who argue that ...
Not only ... but also ...	For instance ... / For example ... / such as ...

expressing result & reason:

As a result, ... / As a result of ...,
... has led to ... / ... has resulted in ...
Consequently, ... / Therefore, ...
On account of ... / Due to ...
One reason behind this is ...

contrasting:

Although/Even though subject + verb, ...
Despite/In spite of noun/gerund, ...
Despite the fact that subject + verb, ...
On the one hand ... On the other hand ...
However ... / Nevertheless, ... / Even so ...

concluding:

To sum up, ... / In conclusion, ...
All things considered, ...
Taking everything into consideration, ...
Weighing up both sides of the argument, ...
The advantages of ... outweigh the disadvantages.

opinion:

As far as I'm concerned, ...
From my point of view, ...
In my opinion, ...
Personally speaking, ...
My own view on the matter is ...